



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

December 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Faculty

CC: Deans, Department Heads

FROM: E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith 
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Student Travel to SWAC Championship Game

Champions! Success in the classroom and outside the classroom can produce champions. By now, you too have begun to celebrate the success of our student-athletes, the mighty Panther Football Team. They are Western Division, Southwest Athletic Conference (SWAC) champions. Not since 1964 has Prairie View A&M University football achieved at this level.

There are students who wish to have the lifelong memory of having traveled to Birmingham Alabama, to support the team, December 12, 2009. Final Exams, however, loom large as their first concern. You are asked not to place athletics above academics but to honor each by permitting students who can show a commitment to attend (e.g. airline itinerary, other ticket, car rental agreement, stamped receipt of reservation from SGA, or other document) an opportunity to take their final examinations at an alternate time. Students with unsatisfactory academic performance and/or poor attendance and assignment completion records will be advised that taking an early exam could further jeopardize their chances of remaining eligible for returning to the University in the Spring, 2010; remaining eligible to participate in financial aid or other University programs; or earning a degree on the time line scheduled.

Some faculty have already announced the following sample alternates for Fall 2009 Final Examination scheduling to accommodate students with bona fide commitments to attend the SWAC Championship in Birmingham, Alabama:

Option A

Following the Friday, December 11, 2009 schedule, Thursday, December 10, 2009 will be used as an "early finals" day and a modified Friday examination will be administered. The time slots and locations will be posted and students will be notified before close of day Thursday, December 3, 2009.



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Option B

Beginning Thursday, December 3, 2009, students in good academic standing and committed to traveling to Birmingham, Alabama may sign statements accepting the grade average as of Monday, December 7, 2009 as the final grade without the final.

Option C

Beginning as early as Monday, December 7, 2009, faculty will arrange the early administration of examinations at times announced in classes during the previous week or times posted on a specified website or in the main office of the department. The examination type and structure would, of course, be plagiarism proof.

Option D

Upon presentation of bona fide commitments to travel to the SWAC Championship, students will be awarded a grade of "temporary" Incomplete in that the assignment will be accompanied by a signed statement of agreement to return to the University and to take the examination at a time and date before January 20, 2010.

Option E

Some combination of A thru D above adjusted to best meet the needs of individual students without wreaking havoc for the faculty member.

Your cooperation is fully expected and appreciated. Champions!! Student athletes in Birmingham, Alabama on December 12, 2009; all candidates for degrees on December 19, 2009.

cc. Dr. George C. Wright
Dr. Michael L. McFrazier
Dr. Laretta Byars
Dr. George C. Brown
Mr. Steve Ransom
Mr. Robert Powell