

Davidson College exam policy might be a good fit for Meredith

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LOGUE
News Editor

One of the most cherished traditions at Meredith is the Honor Code. Most of the Meredith community-students, faculty and staff-put faith in the Honor Code and enforce it with confidence.

Davidson College in Davidson, NC, has been taking the honor system to a new level. Students at Davidson are allowed to take their exams without supervision and at their convenience.

The exams are called "self-scheduled exams" and the students simply put their name on an envelope and give it to their professors. The professors then insert the exams in the envelopes, alphabetize them, and then send them to the registrar's office.

Exams are scheduled dur-

ing two three-hour periods per day, and the students go to the registrar's office, pick up their exam and are allowed to take their exam in their choice of one of 30 classrooms. The only requirement is that the exam be returned to the exam center staff before the end of the exam period.

For reassurance, students receive a receipt for each exam listing when the envelope is picked up, dropped back off and finally turned in to the professor, thus ensuring that all actions are accountable. During the exam period, students are free to move about the halls as long as they are abiding by the Honor Code at all times. The students are also bound by the code to not discuss the exams until the entire examination period is complete.

This procedure has been in effect for 30 years and

Davidson has had complete support for the system from students, faculty and staff. However, opinion on whether or not the policy should be instituted at Meredith is divided.

Dr. Frances Cuffney, professor of biology, said, "It would be a benefit in terms of accommodations to schedules that must often be made (i.e. getting senior grades done early thus having to offer alternate test times for seniors). But I do feel there are severe problems in terms of adherence to the Honor Code."

"Having sat on Honor Council for three years I am both impressed with the support most students give the Honor System, yet saddened at the number of students who showed very little regard for Honor" Cuffney added.

Junior Blair Callahan agreed. "I think cases of [academic dishonesty] would increase significantly," she said.

However, others believe that such a policy would strengthen the honor code

rather than taking advantage of it.

"Davidson's exam policy is an excellent example of how faculty and students can 'honor' the honor policy," said Dr. Margarita Suarez, religion professor. "It gives students the maximum amount of freedom of choice. As they take their honor pledge very seriously they are indeed rewarded for their honesty."

The College is not officially considering modifications to its exam policy.

**Do you think
Meredith
should have
an open
exam
policy?**

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This time we have a chance to take action. The U.S. has been deploying troops with the support of the U.K.

How justified are we for this? I think there is enough motive: 9-11, preventing Hussein from assuming more power or joining forces with bin Laden, not waiting to be struck again and standing tall.

Why should we let domineering, threatening countries pose even more of a threat? We've got the power and we are able to use it for good.

There are people opposed to war who are protesting. But I'll stand by my decision to support the war. It's scary, but if it takes the U.S. alone to be righteous, then that's just the way it's going to have to be.

Campus Events

The first session of the Dialogue Series will be held today at 6 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. The topic will be child abuse and neglect in North Carolina.

Pi Sigma Epsilon Spring Recruitment Week will be Feb. 3-7. Contact Jessica (x2435) or Dana (754-1942) for more information.

Tickets for Lil Friends Weekend are on sale in the dining hall Jan. 27-Feb. 7 during lunch and dinner and MWF in the Cate Center from 10-11 a.m.

The Meredith Entertainment Association is holding a bowling mixer 8-10 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, at Western Lanes on Hillsborough Street. The event is free, and students and their guests are welcome.

