



This year there has been unrest among the student population in regards to the exam timetabling process and the date at which the exam timetables were published. This first came to light through a facebook group which peaked at over 1,200 members. We understand that this was due in part to the increase in student numbers due to the over-admittance for this academic year.

The Student Union felt it necessary to follow this up and find out exactly what the concerns were with this, as the hear say evidence suggested it was not just the delayed publishing it was the other factors that were all contributing to the frustration.

The survey was in two parts. The first part was asking questions about the process of this year's publication and the second on the thought and feelings towards what options the students would like/least like. We received 689 responses in a one week period of which 94.9% were undergraduate and 5.1% postgraduate. Due to the response I would be hesitant to suggest the survey gives a comprehensive view of the opinions of the Postgraduate student but nonetheless can not be discounted in these discussions.

The second part is perhaps most relevant to these discussions. The survey offered students 8 options for what they would like to see to enable the University to cope with this change. The options were Saturday exams at 9, 1 and 4; More than 1 exam per day; term being extended to cover exams; Exams in multiple Venues; Exams in week 12; Change in semester structure; Assessment moving away from exams towards coursework and More exam sessions per day. The question asked students to answer on a 6 point scale with 1 being most unhappy and 6 being very happy. The raw scores for these are as follows:

Exams in Multiple Venues	4.25
Assessment moving away from exams towards coursework	4.16
Change of Semester structure	3.53
Term being extended to cover exams	2.99
More exam sessions per day	2.52
Saturday exams at 9, 1 and 4	2.51
Exams in Week 12 (traditionally the revision week)	2.08
More than one exam per day	1.38

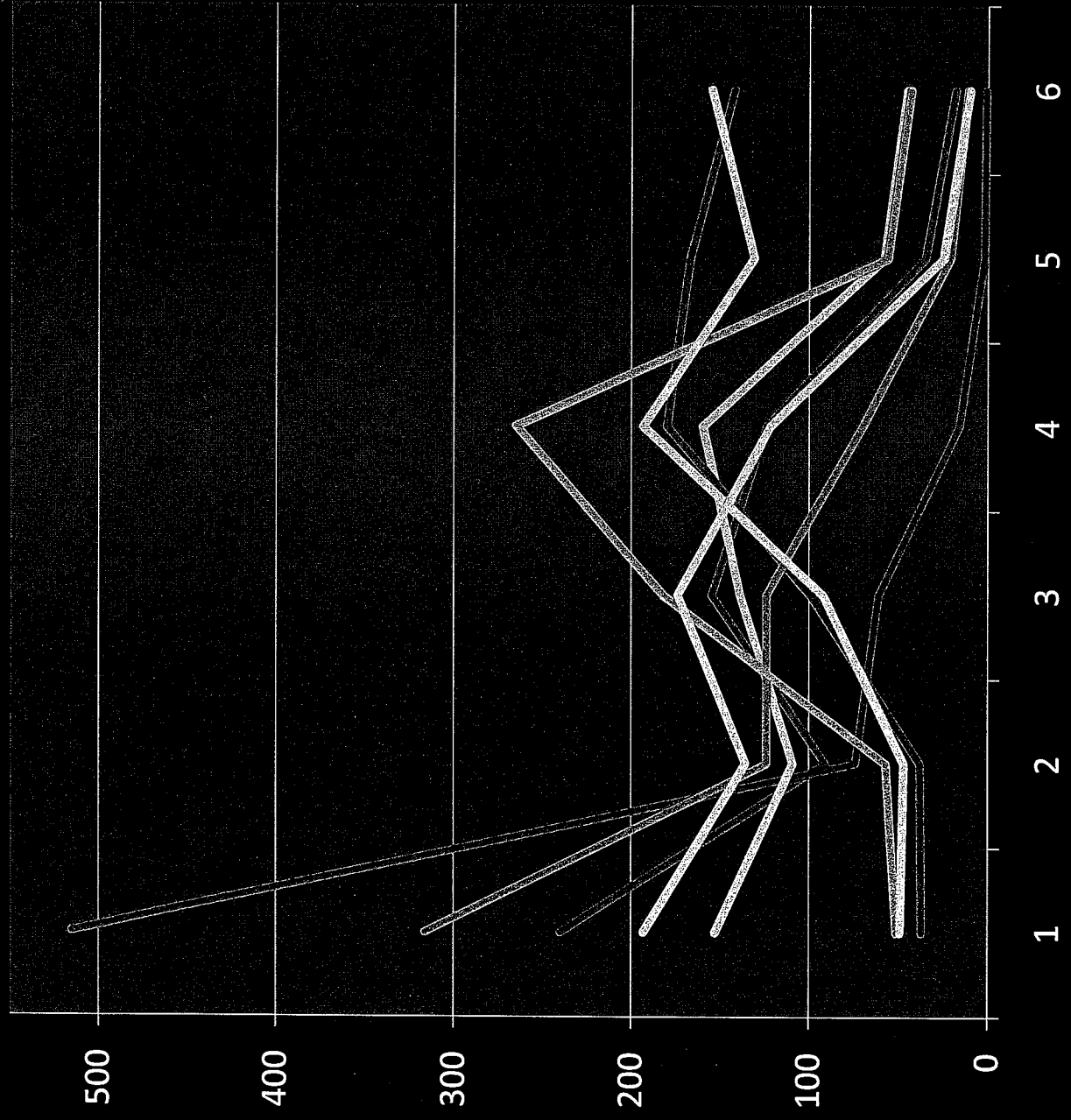
The profiles of how split the opinion was can be seen from the attached graph.

This quite clearly shows that students would be very strongly against having more than one exam per day and would not be happy should Week 12 host exams. However, as expected there is a split

254 comments talked about this idea and only 3 were negative towards the idea – and two of those were personal preference. This is not entirely alien from comments raised in PPRs this year. Whilst as mentioned, this would not be a short term solution, it is something that has to be considered longer term.

Summary:

- Categorically students do not want more than one exam per day
- Overwhelmingly students would like to see fewer examinations in the Semester 2 exam period. This also ties into feedback elements of a course, which scores badly in NSS
- Saturday exams receive mixed reactions, but appear more favourable than extending term later. A significantly increased notice period would be required by many students if this were to be the case
- Extra exam sessions during the day also received favour with students. Perhaps moving to 4 per day rather than 3, although this raises welfare concerns for both staff and students
- There was a lot of support for reducing either the Christmas or Easter holidays by one week
- Using week 12, as a revision week did also not score very highly and would be something the Union would discourage the University from doing at all!



— Saturday exams at 9, 1 & 4

— More than 1 exam per day

— Term being extended to cover exams

— Exams in multiple venues

— Exams in week 12 (traditionally the revision week)

— Change of Semester Structure

— Assessment moving away from exams towards coursework

— More exam sessions per day

