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Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

12 October 2020

OVPAAM Memorandum No. 2020-117

For: The Faculty, Chairpersons, Institute Directors and Deans

Through the Chancellors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.R. Bautista".

From: Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Re: Mid-Semester Reading Break on 2-6 November 2020

One month of remote teaching and learning has passed with two more months to go before the end of classes. It has been a tough month for our academic community as it faced unprecedented and multiple challenges.

To manage the stress of adjusting to the new experience of remote learning in the midst of a pandemic and to allow students to catch up, focus and understand the course learning materials given them, we are scheduling a **System-wide Mid-Semester Reading Break** on the week of **2-6 November 2020**.

For students, this is the time to do advance reading or to simply take a break from grappling with heavy course demands, on the one hand, and a high level of COVID19-induced anxiety, on the other. For faculty members, this break may be a time to further reflect on adjustments to be made in course delivery and assessment, if any, or to rest from close monitoring of learning among students with differential access to Internet connectivity and telecommunication signals.

During the Reading Week, we enjoin our faculty to refrain from

- Conducting synchronous sessions and/or asynchronous activities and assessments; and
- Setting deadlines for course requirements on these dates.

Thank you for your consideration. Stay safe.

From the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (OVPAAs).
Forwarded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA).

This is a sequel Memo to the Reading Break* which includes the break for the units that opted to split the semester in two 7-week long courses for their majors. It also includes the modification of the Reading Break for most students and faculty to November 2-7 to include Saturday instead of simply Nov 2-6. -- OVPAAs (14 Oct 2020)

OVPAAs Memorandum No. 2020-117a

For: The Faculty, Chairpersons, Institute Directors and Deans

Through the Chancellors

From: Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Re: Sequel to OVPAAs memo 2020-117 on the Mid-Semester Reading Break Week Period

This memo is issued as a sequel to OVPAAs Memo 2020-117 dated 12 October 2020.

Saturday is counted in the class days of the First Semester AY 2020-2021. It is included in the System-wide Mid-Semester Reading Break week, which is modified to be from **2 – 7 November 2020**.

For units that opted to split the First Semester AY 2020-2021 into 7-week long courses for majors, the Reading Break will be on **19 – 21 October 2020** for those offered in the first half, and on **25- 27 November 2020** for those offered in the second half.

Thank you for your consideration. Stay safe.