

Initiative  
Examination waitlist



**FRONT**

FOR THE ACTIVE STUDENT

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## Introduction

A common problem at Tilburg University is the high amount of 'No Shows' in exams, especially in resits. The No Shows are students who register for an exam but end up cancelling at the last minute or not showing up for their exam at all. The No Shows cause inefficiency and unnecessary waste of resources, such as hiring invigilators, printing examinations/re-examinations and occupying examination rooms. This was observed by Student Services back in 2012, and they investigated whether this could be reduced. On the other hand, many students regularly forget to register for exams on time. For instance, registration emails regularly end up in students' spam boxes and it is a step that is often overlooked during the stressful and busy time just before the exam period. This leads to students missing their chance to complete a course. A consequence is that students suffer study delays and cannot claim a third chance. This leads to additional costs for the University as students take longer to complete their studies. The current registration system is designed to promote sustainability and staff costs, for example by reducing unnecessary printing and optimising logistical processes. However, students who cancel or fail to show up for their exams at the last minute, thus creating No Shows, still create unnecessary waste and inefficiency. Student Party Front aims to provide a solution that both contributes to the university's sustainability goals and supports our students.

## Proposal

On 25 April 2012, Student Services submitted the memo 'Reducing no-shows exams'. With this, they investigated whether obvious savings could be made. Following this, the following figures emerged from January 2012:

- For the first exams, the No Show concerns 19%
- For resits, the No Show rate was 63%.
- On average for all registered written examinations/re-examinations, the No Show rate was 37%.

These figures showed at the time that No Shows in resits were materially higher than in the first session, the regular exam.

It regularly happens that students register for a resit before the results of the regular exam are known. This is often done as a precaution, because they are not yet sure whether they have passed the regular exam. As soon as it turns out that they did pass and have no ambition to improve their grade, they simply do not show up for the resit and fail to deregister. This problem mainly occurs in the January resit period. Students who have resits in the first week after the Christmas break should register by the end of December at the latest. This is more than two weeks before the exam, instead of the usual five days' notice. As a result, many students do not yet have their marks from the regular exam and register as a precaution, as described earlier.

Following these figures, Student Party Front had several meetings with Facility Services and Academic Services to get a better idea of the current figures. Academic Services has given a clear explanation of how these figures are constructed and agrees that the high percentage of No Shows still applies.

Student Party Front suggests introducing a waiting list system for exam registrations. This system would allow students who have missed the registration deadline to still register for their exams via a waiting list. If a student who did register on time decides to withdraw, a spot automatically becomes available for a student on the waiting list. The first ones on the waiting list can take the exam until there are no more available places. This system therefore also aims to increase students' responsibility to actively participate in their educational process.

The purpose of this waiting list is twofold:

- Students are encouraged to deregister in time when they do not intend to take an exam. This promotes sustainability by avoiding waste of paper, resources and staff costs.
- Students who missed the deadline will still get a chance to take their exams, if space becomes available.

## Conclusion

Student Party Front recognises that completely eliminating No Shows in examinations remains a challenge. However, with the introduction of a waiting list system, we can take important steps to reduce the number of No Shows. This system encourages students to be more aware and responsible with their exam registrations, which contributes to a more efficient use of resources and a reduction in waste within the university. In addition, the waiting list system offers a solution that serves both sustainability goals and student interests.

Student Party Front sees this proposal as an important step towards a university that not only operates more sustainably, but also provides better support to its students. By creating awareness about the consequences of enrolment behaviour and giving students more responsibility, we believe this system can contribute to a culture of cooperation and efficiency within our academic community.



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