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**Daniel Chan** and **Adam Nyman\*** ([adam.nyman@wwu.edu](mailto:adam.nyman@wwu.edu)), Math Department, Bond Hall 202, MS 9063, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225. *Criteria for Noncommutative Ruledness*. Preliminary report.

M. Artin conjectures that noncommutative surfaces are birationally ruled unless they are finite over their center. Criteria for a noncommutative surface to be ruled may be useful in settling this conjecture. As a first step in finding such criteria, we generalize the following commutative fact: Let  $K$  denote the canonical divisor of a smooth projective surface  $Y$ . If  $Y$  has an irreducible  $K$ -negative curve  $C$  with self-intersection 0, then there is a smooth curve  $X$  and fibration  $Y \rightarrow X$  where  $C$  is a fiber and generically, the fiber is  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . (Received August 06, 2008)