

## **REVISED ACADEMIC CALENDAR CONCEPT**

August 20, 2016

During Spring Semester 2016 the President requested we revisit the academic calendar to incorporate a January mini-mester similar in length to Maymester. A calendar concept was developed and distributed to the Faculty, Deans, Department Chairs, and Senate. Based on the feedback received, a second version evolved that simplified the calendar while retaining the basic objective: To provide our students an additional opportunity to move toward degree completion. That second version is attached to this communication.

Unchanged from the current protocol, Spring Break begins the Saturday before the third Monday in March and Thanksgiving remains a five day class break in November.

Previous concerns addressed are:

1. Spring term ended a full two weeks later in May than current practice.
2. Summer Semester was about a week shorter and altered several of our standard Summer parts of term.

3. Fall term started and finished later and shortened the time of the December break, research, travel, etc.

The attached sample of the 2018 calendar addresses these concerns and incorporates a three week mini-mester starting right after New Year's Day.

Key Points:

- The full Spring semester would begin two weeks later than current practice.
- This calendar uses a 15-week term that is inclusive of finals. This meets the SACSCOC standard of 2250 minutes of seat time for a three hour class, and the U.S. Department of Education standard of instruction of 15 weeks, both of which approve of counting finals in those totals. The forty two 50-minute classes, and the twenty eight 75-minute classes provided for in the Spring and Fall portions of this calendar provide 2100 the 2250 required minutes. Extending finals to 2.5 hours provides the 150 additional minutes required to meet 2250 minutes of seat time.
- The proposed calendar utilizes a 5-day (Monday-Friday) finals schedule and allows the use of Saturday to address the scheduling of finals for courses with non-standard meeting times.

- Utilizing this format, the end date for Spring semester is one week later than current practice.
- There remains a quick administrative turn-around for end-of-term data processing between the end of Spring and start of the Maymester/Summer.
- Half semester terms would be two days shorter as compared to the current schedule (35 days instead of 37 days).
- The Summer Semester format, length, and parts of terms remain the same, but starts and finishes one week later than current practice.
- In this format, Welcome Week and Fall classes begin one-week later than current practice. However, the 15-week inclusive format causes the term to finish on practically the same date as our current format.
- All else remains the same. We would appreciate comments and feedback. We ask that the Chairperson or their designee for your respective bodies collect your feedback and questions so that we can be as thorough as possible in considering your suggestions and questions. Thank you.