

Calendar Information Item

Currently the Senate has a resolution that the calendar will consist of no fewer than 75 class days in a semester with the equivalent days in the summer.

There are problems with the length of the semester as there are many other constraints:

1. Five – six days of exams. (With five day exam period, there are overlapping exams causing major problems for faculty rescheduling exams.)
2. Usually the calendar allows at least one reading day between classes and final exams.
3. Two days are needed for faculty to grade exams before graduation. (In Spring 09, only one day caused huge problems for faculty, advisors and registrar's office.)
4. At least one day (not graduation day) is needed with administrative offices open after grades are due for students to see advisors, dept chairs and hopefully faculty.
5. Nine days are needed between semesters
 - a. For registrar's office
 - i. To process grades for Academic action (warning, suspension) and letters to be sent.
 - ii. To check prerequisites for the next semester.
 - iii. To check scholarship requirements.
 - b. For students:
 - i. For GAPing of classes.
 - ii. For academic appeals.
 - iii. So move in day in summer does not overlap with graduation day (Summer 09).
6. Other considerations for faculty:
 - a. Some colleges do international trips with students between semesters and need a longer break.
 - b. Faculty use the breaks between semesters to work on research and prepare for the new semesters.
 - c. Time is needed to prepare websites and consult with IT on Blackboard, etc prior to the semester.

Reasons for seventy five class days: faculty feel they need that much time to preserve the academic integrity of the classes.

1. University of Georgia and Alabama both have seventy five class days in a semester.
2. However, there are many schools with excellent reputations with shorter semesters.

To preserve 75 class days and allow adequate time between semesters, we can gain days by eliminating days off:

1. No days off for Labor Day, Memorial Day, Martin Luther King Jr Day, and July 4th if it is on a holiday. (Staff and AP would probably not work on a class day if we do this.)
2. Shorter Thanksgiving Break to only Thursday and Friday. (Note: students asked for a Fall break, and were told Thanksgiving served as Fall break.)
3. Shorten the December Holiday break and Spring break. (Note: I don't believe students would respond well to either of these choices.)
4. Eliminate exam days for first summer session (but some colleges need at least 10 weeks in the summer.)