



To: Dr. William Self, Faculty Senate
From: Dr. DeLaine Priest, Committee Administrator
Academic Calendar Committee
Subject: 2018-19 Academic Calendar Committee Annual Report
Date: November 15, 2018

Committee Overview:

The Academic Calendar Committee is a joint committee of the University of Central Florida's Faculty Senate. Joint committees are established and dissolved by the president, the Senate and the faculty are represented by members nominated by the Committee on Committees.

Committee Composition:

The Academic Calendar committee consist of one faculty member from each academic unit selected by the Committee on Committees and one student nominated by the president of the Student Government. No more than two of the faculty members of the committee shall hold rank of assistant dean or higher. The Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment Services (or designee) will serve as committee administrator and identify other ex officio members. The 2018-19 Academic Calendar Committee composition consisted of 12 voting members and two ex-officio representatives.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee:

- a. To recommend the academic calendar and to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations of the State of Florida and the University Board of Trustees.
- b. To consider the impact of changes in the academic calendar on students and faculty.

Process:

The approval process for the Academic Calendar includes recommendations from the committee which are forwarded to the Provost, Board of Trustee, and then submitted to the Board of Governors for final approval. Dr. Barbara Gannon, served as Chair, Dr. Robin Back served as Vice Chair, and Dr. Priest as Committee Administrator.

Committee Actions:

Two drafted versions of the 2021-22 Academic Calendar were proposed:

- **Proposal B was voted on and approved by the committee (see attached)**
- Proposal A recommended a Fall start date of August 30th



- Proposal B recommended the Fall start date would commence August 23rd
- Proposal B does not include a study day
- Last day of classes is December 3rd

Committee Discussion:

The number of instructional days for the term are reduced when multiple holidays fall on the same day of the week, which will vary each semester, thereby impacting classes held on those days. The question was raised if this issue could be reviewed. What are the options? It was recommended that this issue be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for review.

Sierra Clare, SGA representative, presented a student's concern with regard to religious holiday's observance. The student is not requesting action but would like faculty, staff and administrators to be sensitive to holiday observances and for the Academic Calendar committee to consider this concern for future Academic Calendar reviews and approvals. Passover 2019 falls between Friday April 19th through Saturday 27th; and finals for spring 2019 are from Wednesday April 24th through Monday April 30th, 2019. The first two days (April 19-20) and the last two days (April 26-27) are considered Jewish holy days. Thus, students must decide between academic successes versus religious observance.

The committee did acknowledge that the University has the Religious Calendar 2018-2020 on the Faculty Center for Teaching and learning website under the Teaching and Learning Resources(<http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/ReligiousObservances/>). The committee confirmed that there is a policy regarding excused absences and accommodations for religious observances. The committee recommended forwarding this concern to the Faculty Senate to bring more awareness to faculty, administrators and students of religious holiday's observance.

Respectfully submitted by: Committee Administrator, Dr. DeLaine Priest
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