

**University Senate Executive Committee**  
**June 24th, 2020**

**Temporary University Senate By-Law Change**  
**ADDITIONAL READING DAYS FOR FALL 2020**

**Proposal:** Since the University of Connecticut decided to put the two weeks of class following the Thanksgiving break online, four days of those two weeks should be reading days.

**Justification:** As we all know, there is a national crisis in student mental health that pre-dates the Covid-19 crisis. Compounding the pre-existing condition, students (and faculty) confront additional stresses arising from exigencies and uncertainties we face in the fall semester. The proposed temporary changes to the calendar are an attempt to relieve some of the pressure and encourage a reflective and fruitful ending to the semester. Students will have time to finish final projects and other kinds of non-examination assessments and to prepare for final examinations. Faculty will be available to answer questions through various media and hold virtual office hours.

**II.H**  
**University Calendar**

The Academic calendar will be determined according to the schedule given (and is on file in the University Senate Office and the Board of Trustees) and will adhere to the following principles:

1. There will be two semesters each year with 14 weeks\* of classes plus six days of examinations in each. Fall semester classes will begin on the Monday before Labor Day. Spring semester classes will begin on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King Day. There will be two calendar days between the last day of classes and the first day of final examinations which shall be known as Reading Days. \*The fall 2020 semester will include 13 weeks of classes, 7 reading days, and six days of final assessments.

Fall semester classes: Monday, August 31, 2020 – Saturday, November 21, 2020 & Monday, November 30 – **Monday, December 7, 2020**

Labor Day Holiday (no classes): Monday, September 7, 2020

Thanksgiving Recess: Sunday, November 22 - Sunday, November 29, 2020

**Reading Days (no classes or assessments): Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – Sunday, December 13, 2020 and Thursday, December 17, 2020**

Final Assessments: Monday, December 14, 2020 – Wednesday, December 16, 2020 and Friday, December 18, 2020 – Sunday, December 20, 2020

\*\*Whenever appropriate, instructors with Monday classes are encouraged to arrange make up classes, make up assignments, or other accommodations for students having Monday class holidays so they will not be deprived of course content that would be available to students in Tuesday-Friday classes. **\*\*Does not apply to the modified calendar suggested for Fall 2020 because Monday, December 7 will be a class day.**

2. The general class schedule will be as shown in the file copy.
3. **Fall Semesters** will adhere to the following principles:
  - a. Classes shall begin on the Monday preceding Labor Day.
  - b. Residence Halls shall open no later than the weekend before classes start.
  - c. Classes shall not meet on Labor Day.
  - d. Classes shall not meet on the week of Thanksgiving.
  - e. No regularly scheduled final examinations shall be held on the first Thursday of final examination week, which shall be known as a Reading Day. [Please note for fall 2020, the designated reading day is Thursday, December 17 according to the existing by-laws.]
  - f. **Fall 2020 only, no regularly scheduled final assessments may be held during the reading periods from December 8-13 and December 17 or the class days from November 30-December 7, 2020.**