

**University Senate Scholastic Standards Committee**

**October 5, 2020**

**Temporary University Senate By-Law Change**

**Spring 2021 Calendar**

**Proposal:** Move spring break week from after the 7<sup>th</sup> week, March 14-20, 2021, to after the 12<sup>th</sup> week, April 11-17, 2021 and add two reading days to the calendar.

**Justification:**

Given that Covid-19 continues to pose a serious health risk, the SSC proposes adjustments to the Spring 2021 academic calendar in order to maintain a healthy campus. There are no perfect solutions to this situation. In consultation with student government leaders as well as with Student Health and Residential Life, the Scholastic Standards Committee proposes to move Spring Break later in the semester.

This proposal attempts to balance physical and mental health outcomes for students, faculty and staff. Having Spring Break March 14-20 may pose physical health risks due to Covid-19 and may require a two-week quarantine period that would be disruptive in the middle of the semester. For this reason, some universities and colleges are canceling Spring Break altogether.

The SSC proposes keeping a break, but moving it later in the semester. Given the increased stress and exhaustion of pandemic education, a break—for mental health as well as for members of the University community to catch up before the end of the semester—is deemed beneficial.

The timing of the break, April 11-17, affords maximum flexibility for responding to health conditions in Spring 2021. If it is deemed safe for students and faculty to return to campus after Spring Break without a quarantine period, they will do so; if it is deemed unsafe, the final weeks of classes and the exam period will be delivered online (mimicking the calendar in Fall 2020). Classes will end on Wednesday, April 28 and will be followed by four reading days: April 29, 30 and May 1, 2.

**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 week 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. \*adjustments to the Spring 2021 semester calendar are detailed below

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.

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.
4. **Spring Semesters** will adhere to the following principles:
  - a. Spring semester classes shall begin on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day.
  - b. Residence halls shall open no later than the weekend before classes start.
  - b. For the spring 2021 semester, a one-week spring break shall take place after 8 12 weeks of classes, counting the week with Martin Luther King Day as the first week. Two additional reading days will be held on Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30.

Spring semester classes: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – Saturday, April 10, 2021  
Spring break: Sunday, April 11, 2021 – Saturday, April 17, 2021  
Spring semester classes: Monday, April 19, 2021 - Wednesday, April 28, 2021  
Reading Days (no classes or assessments):  
Thursday, April 29, 2021 - Sunday, May 2, 2021  
Final Assessments: Monday, May 3, 2021 – Saturday, May 8, 2021

  - d. Commencement cannot occur at a time when a final exam is given.