

**Attachment M-3
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 26, 2012**

To: Executive Committee
CC: Lakshmi Malrouu, Assistant Vice President (Interim), Academic Affairs
Todd Miggiaccio, Chair, Academic Policies Committee (2012-13)
From: Kristin A. Van Gaasbeck, Chair, Academic Policies Committee (2011-12)
Date: April 10, 2012
RE: Academic Calendars for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014

FS09-11A/Ex. and AS94-98B charge that the Academic Policies Committee propose a two-year calendar to the Faculty Senate for consideration. The Academic Policies Committee voted to recommend adoption of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic calendars attached with this transmittal. (8 Yes, 1 No, and 1 abstention).

Rationale

The attached calendars are identical to those proposed by Academic Affairs and continue the status quo with one exception. The Committee voted to recommend that Commencement be held on Saturday and Sunday in both semesters, instead of Friday and Saturday as has been the case historically (9 Yes, 0 No, and 1 abstention). AVP Malrouu confirmed that all other aspects of the attached academic calendars are the same as the traditional calendar currently in use.

The reasons for this recommendation are twofold. First, this allows for all students and faculty to attend Commencement. Second, as many individuals have professional responsibilities Fridays, this makes Commencement more accessible to family and friends of graduates.

While individual committee members expressed a personal preference for not having Commencement held on a Friday afternoon, Saturday, or Sunday for religious observances, all members of the Committee agreed that these personal preferences should not dictate how the academic calendar is constructed.

Background

FS09-09A/APC/Ex. requested that the Committee consider the possibility of a week-long Thanksgiving Break in the fall semester. In addition, the Committee considered other issues, such as the imbalance in the number of instructional days across semesters and the overlap between final examinations and commencement in both semesters. The Committee has continued to communicate with the President and Provost regarding general concerns about the academic calendar, but was unable to resolve these issues in time to make recommendations for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years. The Committee hopes to continue these discussions for the next two-year academic calendar.

Further notes and policy language

In light of recent discussions in the Executive Committee requesting that policy committee chairs now craft language of behalf of the Executive Committee, such language is provided below. Without knowing the order of the agenda or the attachments that will be provided in advance, I am unable to include appropriate numbering.

Motion: FS11/12-1XX/APC/EC

The Faculty Senate recommends adoption of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic calendars provided in Attachment X.