



University of Connecticut
University Senate Executive Committee

Date: February 20, 2009
From: Senate Executive Committee
To: Academic Calendar Task Force

President Hogan has asked the SEC to review the academic calendar to see if it could be adapted to better meet the needs of the university. The issues raised by President Hogan are as follows:

- It would be preferable to start the academic year after Labor Day.
- He would like to offer a longer and more comprehensive Winter Session.
- A longer Winter Session would push back the start of the Spring Semester -- perhaps until very late January. A later ending Spring Semester would improve the chances for better weather for a large outdoor commencement ceremony at Rentschler field in Hartford.

In addition to these concerns raised by the President, you are requested to consider the following:

- Both semesters currently include minimal reading days and a compressed exam schedule. This is particularly an issue in the Spring, when exams for undergraduates overlap with Graduate Commencement.
- There are particular problems associated with the current Fall Semester calendar. These include the early Labor Day holiday, the long stretch without a break between that holiday and Thanksgiving, and a short period of classes before final exams after a long Thanksgiving break, which makes re-engagement of students problematic.
- There are particular difficulties for laboratory classes when breaks are shorter than a week because of the transition from one lab set up to another.

We suggest that you begin by reviewing the well-documented deliberations associated with the previous consideration of the calendar in the early part of this decade. While you should determine how much time is needed to fully consider these issues, we anticipate your recommendations about the academic calendar coming back to the SEC for consideration by the Senate at some point in the fall 2009 semester.

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362 Fairfield Way, Unit-2169
Storrs, CT 06269-2169

phone: (860) 486-2236
fax: (860) 486-4103
<http://senate.uconn.edu>