

Resolution 2016-17.I

Resolution to Revise University Calendar Criteria (Presidential Policy Memorandum 228)

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: February 27, 2017

Reviewed/Waived by Faculty Senate:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by President:

Effective: Fall 2017

WHEREAS, the university calendar criteria requires 72 instructional days for fall and spring terms as well as two separate summer session terms, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine will become the university's ninth college on July 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the University Committee on Academic Support has considered the need and impact of creating an additional university holiday and transitioning the instructional calendar needs of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine as well as construct flexibility for innovative delivery of instruction, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey found that 90 percent of students and 76 percent of faculty at Virginia Tech would prefer that the university hold no classes on Labor Day and 24 of Virginia Tech's 25 SCHEV peers hold no classes on Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, President Sands has indicated his support of no classes on Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, the current academic calendar includes adequate contact hours during the fall term to permit Virginia Tech to reduce the semester by one day without affecting the defined instructional semester calendar length; and

WHEREAS, existing university calendar criteria does not accommodate the loss of one instructional day, and

WHEREAS, the university cannot reduce the number of days between the end of term and Fall commencement due to the length of exams and Fall commencement ceremony, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine has an academic calendar that falls outside of the current established fall, spring, and summer terms, and

WHEREAS, the construct of two summer terms limits the university's ability to accommodate all constituent needs and provide innovative instructional modules, and

WHEREAS, the university can construct multiple timelines to allow multiple sessions within the overarching one term (including the current standard Summer I and Summer II) thus allowing the opportunity for a Budget Tuition Plan for students, and

WHEREAS, multiple timelines can be used to create flexibility in scheduling in order to accommodate unique modules that may be developed around Destination Areas,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the University Calendar Criteria be revised as follows:

- Labor Day be stipulated as a non-class day.
- Restate the number of class days in a term to 71 days in the fall and 72 days in the spring.
- Summer term to be defined as one term that may be divided into a variety of different periods in addition to the traditional Summer I and Summer II schedules.
- All other calendar criteria remains as previously stated:
 - The Fall Commencement Ceremony shall be scheduled after the completion of final exams whenever possible.
 - Fall semester shall include a long weekend break in October to allow a short break.
 - The fall semester shall contain a one-week break for the Thanksgiving holiday. The spring semester shall contain a one-week break approximately half-way through spring semester.
 - No class days are held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
 - There shall be at least two days between the end of spring semester examinations and the spring commencement. This necessitates a Saturday examination day.
 - There shall be no scheduling of Spring Commencement on the same weekend as Commencement at Radford University.
 - There will be no classes on Memorial Day and Independence Day.