

4-23-2009

Academic Calendar Proposal 04/23/2009

Curriculum Committee

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Date: April 23, 2009
To: Executive Committee
From: Cheryl Contant, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean
Re: Item for Campus Assembly

At the April 2, 2009 University-wide Senate meeting, the Morris 2013-2014 academic calendar was brought forward for a vote (as required by university policy). When the five Morris senators unanimously voted against the proposed calendar, the motion to approve our calendar was tabled for future consideration.

After hearing about this action by our senators, I asked them to lead a very abbreviated two-week discussion of the issues that surround the calendar and to propose an alternative calendar, if they felt one should be proposed. Attached is a report from them and a proposed alternative calendar.

I would like to ask for a vote from the Campus Assembly at the May 5, 2009 meeting between the two proposed academic calendars. I would be happy to assist the Executive Committee in preparing that ballot.

There are essentially two fundamental differences between the two proposed calendars: (1) the start day of the week in the fall semester; and (2) the week of starting in the spring semester.

The original calendar (Proposal A) has a Wednesday start date. This start day is due to a "new student orientation" schedule, which begins with new students being dropped off by parents and family on Sunday. Orientation activities continue throughout the day on Monday and Tuesday. The spring semester starts on the Tuesday following MLK Jr. Day and has a spring break and end of semester coincident with the Twin Cities campus.

The calendar proposed by the working group (Proposal B) has a Monday start day, to allow a full week of classes to meet in the first week of classes on campus. This necessitates moving "new student orientation" to a schedule where students would be dropped off by parents on Friday and orientation activities occurring on Saturday and Sunday. The spring semester in this proposal starts the week before MLK Jr. Day, with spring break and commencement one week earlier than the Twin Cities campus.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.