

4-17-2015

SR-14-15-25 FS (CONTINUED)

Marshall University

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FACULTY SENATE RECOMMENDATION

SR-14-15-25 FS

Recommends that we continue with the current 14/15 week-calendar model for one more year (2015-2016). Then, due to the many valid considerations/concerns raised by students and faculty alike with many aspects of our current calendar model (beyond just the uneven number of weeks between semesters), we will take the next year to more deliberately discuss a new structure to the academic calendar, with these changes taking effect in the 2016-17 school year.

RATIONALE

Several faculty have raised a number of objections to the proposed academic calendar for 2015-16 (with similar objections to the calendar proposed for 2016-17). No faculty argued in support of the proposed calendar change, although some voiced support for making the lengths of the semesters equal (either by lengthening the fall or shortening the spring); several wondered why the 14-week fall semester we have been working with is now posing a problem. Adding a week on the end of the fall semester merely to make it even with the spring semester does not solve the problems that the fall calendar currently has (notably, that there is no substantive break for students or faculty until the week of Thanksgiving).

- 1) The end of the fall term is so late that means that the grades won't "roll" for at least 2 more days, allowing very little time to run the report for students on probation, suspension and those who have a status change to good standing. That usually means the following morning after grades roll. College offices will not know who is to be suspended, put on probation, or moved to good standing until, perhaps, Christmas Eve, or later. College offices must send out 5 different types of letters to these different types of students (probation, 1 semester suspensions, 2 semester suspensions, 2 year suspensions and good standing), but must first individually double check all students on the lists, which can be as many as 150-200 students in the COLA. If College staff do not work full days on Christmas Eve and perhaps Christmas Day, then students will have to wait until after New Year's Eve to find out their probation, suspension, or good standing status.
- 2) The proposed changes leave faculty little time to make substantive changes to syllabi, to plan courses, or engage scholarly activities during break. Faculty are increasingly expected to use the first week on contract (prior to instructional time) for administrative and service activities; together, these make untenable demands on a single planning week, especially for faculty with heavy teaching loads. This is graphically illustrated on the following calendar, which shows that there are 6 non-holiday days off between semesters in the proposed academic calendar for AY 2015-2016 (this number is 5 if one considers that the State includes half-day holidays for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve for that calendar year).
- 3) Moving the end of the semester closer to the Christmas holidays will force some students to travel on days that are necessarily more expensive than earlier closings are. This is also true for any faculty and staff who use this time to travel and see family. There must certainly be an associated cost to the university to keep the buildings and facilities open for these extra days.

- 4) If the fall semester would start a week earlier, this would more closely match the Cabell County public school schedule – certainly would help College of Ed students who are doing their student teaching – to actually start their semester of student teaching when the school starts.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: Larry Stickle DATE: 4/17/2015

DISAPPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: Larry G. White DATE: 5/21/15

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Marshall University Academic Calendar Summer 2015 plus AY 2015-16

Summer 2015

Intersession

May 8, Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Regular Registration

May 11, Monday
First day of classes

May 11, Monday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Late registration/schedule adjustment (add/drop) closes

May 12, Tuesday
"W" Withdrawal period begins

May 22, Friday
Last day to drop an individual course

May 25, Monday
Memorial Day Holiday – University closed

May 26, Tuesday – June 4, Thursday
Complete withdrawals only

June 4, Thursday
Last day of class; Last day to completely withdraw from Intersession

June 5, Friday
Final Examination Day

June 8, Monday, Noon
Deadline for submitting final grades

Summer I

May 15, Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Regular Registration

May 18, Monday
First day of classes

May 18, Monday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Late Registration/Schedule Adjustment (add/drop) closes

May 19, Tuesday
“W” Withdrawal period begins

May 25, Monday
Memorial Day Holiday – University closed

July 3, Friday
Independence Day Holiday observed – University closed

July 17, Friday
Last day to drop an individual course

July 17, Friday
Application for August Graduation due in academic dean’s office

July 17, Friday
Final draft of thesis/dissertation due in advisor’s office

July 20, Monday – August 6, Thursday
Complete withdrawals only

August 6, Thursday
Last day of class; Last day to completely withdraw from Summer I

August 6, Thursday
Approved Thesis/Dissertation must be submitted electronically
All paperwork/checks must be in Graduate College Office

August 7, Friday
Final Examination Day

August 10, Monday, Noon
Deadline for submitting final grades

Summer II

June 5, Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Regular Registration

June 7, Sunday, 9 a.m.
Residence Halls Open

June 8, Monday
First day of classes

June 8, Monday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Late Registration/Schedule Adjustment (add/drop) closes

June 9, Tuesday
“W” Withdrawal period begins

June 12, Friday
Application for July graduation due in academic dean's office

June 12, Friday
Final draft of thesis/dissertation due in advisor's office

June 26, Friday
Last day to drop an individual course

June 29, Monday – July 9, Thursday
Complete withdrawals only

July 3, Friday
Independence Day Holiday observed – University closed

July 9, Thursday
Last day of class; Last day to completely withdraw from Summer II

July 9, Thursday
Approved thesis/dissertation due in Graduate College Office

July 10, Friday
Final Examination Day
Official July graduation date

July 13, Monday, Noon
Deadline for submitting final grades

Summer III

July 13, Monday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Regular Registration

July 14, Tuesday
First day of classes

July 14, Tuesday
Late Registration/Schedule Adjustment (add/drop) closes

July 15, Wednesday
“W” Withdrawal period begins

July 17, Friday
Application for August graduation due in academic dean’s office

July 17, Friday
Final draft of thesis/dissertation due in advisor’s office

July 31, Friday
Last day to drop an individual course

August 3, Monday – August 13, Thursday
Complete withdrawals only

August 13, Thursday
Last day of class; Last day to completely withdraw from Summer III

August 13, Thursday
Approved thesis/dissertation due in Graduate College Office

August 14, Friday
Final Examination Day
Official August Graduation date

August 17, Monday, Noon
Deadline for submitting final grades

First Semester 2015-2016

August 14, Friday
End of summer school

August 17, Monday – August 21, Friday
Registration/schedule adjustment

August 19, Wednesday, 9:00 am
Residence halls open for freshmen

August 20, Thursday – August 21, Friday
Week of Welcome for freshmen

August 22, Saturday, 9:00am
Residence halls open for upperclassmen

August 24, Monday
First day of classes

August 24, Monday – August 28, Friday
Late Registration/Schedule Adjustment (add-drop)

August 28, Friday
Last day to add a class

August 29, Saturday – August 31, Monday
University computing services unavailable

August 31, Monday
"W" Withdrawal period begins

September 7, Monday
Labor Day Holiday – University Closed

September 18, Friday
Application for December graduation due in academic dean's office

September 25, Friday
Last day to drop a 1st eight weeks course

October 5, Monday
Thesis/dissertation final draft due in advisor's office

October 12, Monday
Mid-semester, 1st eight weeks ends

October 13, Tuesday
2nd eight weeks begins

October 14, Wednesday, Noon
Freshmen/Sophomore midterm grades due

October 26, Monday
Students should schedule appointments with advisors to prepare for advance registration. (Required for students with mandatory advising holds.)

October 30, Friday
Last day to drop a full semester individual course

November 2, Monday
Recommended date to apply for May graduation

November 2, Monday – December 6, Friday
Complete withdrawals only

November 9, Monday – November 20, Friday
Advance registration for spring semester
(open only to currently enrolled students)

November 13, Friday
Last day to drop 2nd eight weeks course

November 21, Saturday, Noon
Residence halls close

November 23, Monday
Advance registration for spring semester
(open to admitted and readmitted students)

November 23, Monday – November 28, Saturday
Thanksgiving Break, classes dismissed

November 25, Wednesday – November 27, Friday
Thanksgiving Holiday – University closed

November 29, Sunday, 9:00 am
Residence halls open

November 30, Monday
Classes resume

Nov 30, Monday – December 4, Friday
“Dead week”

December 4, Friday

Last day of class; Last day to completely withdraw from fall semester

December 5, Saturday

Exam day for Saturday classes; some common finals

December 7, Monday

Exam day

December 8, Tuesday

Exam day

December 9, Wednesday

Study day; Exams resume at 3 p.m. for Wed evening classes

December 10, Thursday

Graduate thesis, approved EDT uploaded to Proquest

December 10, Thursday

Exam Day

December 11, Friday

Exam Day

December 12, Saturday, TBD

Winter commencement, Big Sandy Superstore Arena

December 13, Sunday, Noon

Residence Halls close

December 14, Monday, Noon

Final grades due

December 23, Wednesday, 5:00 pm

University closes

December 24, Thursday – January 1, Friday

Winter Break, University closed

December 29, Tuesday – December 30, Wednesday

Student Service Offices Open, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

(Admissions, Bursar, Financial Aid, Registrar, Student Resource Center)

Second Semester 2015-2016

January 4, 2015, Monday
University Reopens

January 4, Monday – January 8, Friday
Registration/Schedule adjustments

January 10, Sunday, 9:00 am
Residence halls open

January 11, Monday
First day of classes

January 11, Monday – January 15, Friday
Late Registration/Schedule Adjustment (add-drop)

January 15, Friday
Last day to add a class

January 18, Monday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – University closed

January 19, Tuesday
“W” Withdrawal period begins

February 5, Friday
Application for May graduation due in academic dean’s office

February 12, Friday
Last day to drop 1st eight weeks course

February 22, Monday
Thesis/dissertation final draft due in advisor’s office

March 2, Wednesday
Midterm, 1st eight weeks ends

March 3, Thursday
2nd eight weeks courses begins

March 7, Monday, Noon
Freshmen/Sophomore mid-term grades due

March 14, Monday

Students should schedule appointments with advisors to prepare for advance registration for summer and fall. (Required for students with mandatory advising holds.)

March 18, Friday

Last day to drop an individual course

March 19, Saturday, Noon

Residence halls close

March 21, Monday – March 26, Saturday

Spring Break, Classes dismissed

March 21, Monday – April 29, Friday

Complete withdrawals only

March 27, Sunday, 9:00 am

Residence halls reopen

March 28, Monday

Classes resume

March 28, Monday

Recommended date to apply for December 2016 graduation

March 28, Monday – April 1, Friday

Advance registration for summer
(open only to currently enrolled students)

April 4, Monday

Advance registration for summer begins
(open to admitted/readmitted students)

April 11, Monday – April 22, Friday

Advance registration for fall semester
(open only to currently enrolled students)

April 12, Tuesday

Last day to drop a 2nd eight weeks course

April 25, Monday

Advance registration for fall semester begins
(open to admitted and readmitted students except first-time fall undergraduates)

April 25, Monday – April 29, Friday

“Dead Week”

April 29, Friday

Last day of class; Last day to completely withdraw from spring semester

April 30, Saturday

Exam day for Saturday classes; some common finals

May 2, Monday

Exam Day

May 3, Tuesday

Exam Day

May 4, Wednesday

Study Day; Exams resume at 3:00 pm for Wed evening classes

May 5, Thursday

Exam Day

May 5, Thursday

Graduate thesis, approved EDT uploaded to Proquest

May 6, Friday

Exam Day

May 7, Saturday, TBD at Big Sandy Superstore Arena

Commencement

May 8, Sunday, Noon

Residence halls close

May 9, Monday – August 12, Friday

Summer School Sessions

May 10, Tuesday, Noon

Final grades due

May 21, Saturday – May 23, Monday

University Computing Services Unavailable

May 30, Monday

Memorial Day Holiday – University closed

July 4, Monday

Independence Day Holiday – University closed