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SR-95-96-41 (AHC)

Marshall University

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## AD HOC CALENDAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

### SR-95-96-41(AHC)

**Proposal 1:** Add a Fall Break of 2 days about midway in the Semester (one option on Columbus Day weekend and extend classes 2 days)

**Rationale:** The addition of a long weekend Fall Break for faculty who have experienced this have reported it promotes mental health of students and faculty, as well as a chance to renew physical energy. Pedagogically this encourages review, segmentation, and a clearer indication (especially to transitioning students) of their standing so they can adjust or in extreme cases, withdraw from a single class. Some of these benefits are lost with Thanksgiving falling 2 weeks before the end of the semester and adding two days here as was done in the past, did not prove successful for many students. A week here also made it difficult for out of state and international students who needed university housing. Specifically if Fall Break is scheduled to coincide with Columbus Day, a Monday-Tuesday holiday here would provide the same vacation time as Spring semester and allow participation in community events. While starting the semester early and taking Fall Break Thursday and Friday would be another option, the Monday-Tuesday schedule would allow the same number of instructional days if classes were extended on Monday and Tuesday. This would also permit Sunday to be used as an additional study day and there still be a month long semester break if Proposal 2 is accepted.

**Proposal 2:** Begin Spring Semester after Martin Luther King Day

**Rationale:** By starting the semester after Martin Luther King Day, faculty and staff are better able to participate in the holiday, the continuity of the semester is maintained (especially for Monday only classes) and a four day week allows students better transition into activities of school. By starting the semester at this time, the number of instructional days in the severest weather may be decreased and still have a month-long winter break from Dec. 18-Jan. 20 if Proposal 1 is accepted. This also allows Spring Break to be in a time of better weather, especially if Proposal 3 is accepted.\*

**Proposal 3:** Spring Break established as the third week March (begin Fri. eve. 3/20/98 with Easter 4/12)

**Rationale:** By moving Spring Break to the third week in March, it may occur during better weather so that students, faculty and staff can more safely use the time to enjoy the benefits intended. Even if Mother Nature does not cooperate, a later Spring Break, in conjunction with proposal 2, would fall after the ninth week of the semester and thus allow a bit more time in the first portion of the semester to identify projects and still have sufficient time to complete work with the increased productivity following Spring Break.

\*Effect on later Summer and Fall Semesters should be considered

**Proposed Calendar With Changes For 1997-1998**

August 25, Monday..... First day of classes  
October 13 & 14, Monday & Tuesday..... Fall Break  
December 8 & 9, Monday & Tuesday..... Last days of classes (Formerly Exam Days)  
December 10, Wednesday..... Study Day  
December 11, 12, 13 (for Saturday classes), 15 & 16..... Exam Days  
December 18..... Last day for grade submission  
  
January 20, Tuesday..... Spring Semester classes begin  
March 20, Friday at 6:00 p.m..... Residence Halls close for Spring Break  
May 18, Monday..... Last day for submitting grades  
(?) May 18, Monday..... Summer Session A begins  
(?) August 31, Monday..... Fall Semester begins

**FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:**

APPROVED BY SENATE: Elaine Baker DATE: 4-1-96

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

READ: [Signature] DATE: 4-15-96

**COMMENTS:**

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