

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE of THE INSTITUTIONAL GOALS  
and PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE, to study the question:

Is it desirable to incorporate a two-day "fall break" into the University calendar at or near the middle of the fall semester?

This question arose in the Faculty Senate and has been under study throughout the month of November.

PROCEDURE:

Random sampling of stratified segments of the university community by personal and telephone interviews.

Several deans, department heads, faculty members and students were interviewed. They were asked not only to respond to the specific question but to consider alternatives such as the possibility of expanding Thanksgiving holiday to one full week.

Interviewees were apprised of the fact that accreditation regulations mandate a minimum number of school days and that taking two days out would result in making up those days sometime. Suggestions were sought on how the days could be made up. Our present university calendar allots 77 days to spring semester and only 73.5 days to fall semester.

Dr. Ronnie Sutton was interviewed and was asked about the possibility of saving a day or two from registration by doing more advance registration. Also, the possibility of holding classes on Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day was discussed.

FINDINGS:

Although some interviewees were seemingly facetious in their responses, saying such things as "Sure, I'll be glad to take off anytime," most were serious. There was a surprising amount

of sentiment favoring a fall break. Most of those favoring the break said they were mentally and physically tired at that time and needed a rest. A few indicated, however, that two days would do little to refresh them. Support for the idea of a break was found in all echelons of the university population.

To find the extra days, some interviewees said "Start earlier in August"; others said "Extend beyond present semester end". One said "Meet on Saturdays" while still others suggested meeting on Labor Day and on one or two days of Registration.

The constraints appear to be these:

1. Required days for an accredited program of study.
2. Calendar days between the end of Summer Terms and Christmas break.
3. Unwillingness of all concerned to attend school on Holidays or Saturdays.
4. Hardware limitations in our computer system to accomplish pre-registration. The system is now operating at its maximum and cannot be utilized for more pre-registration.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

1. Holidays are sacrosanct.
2. Weekends are personal time off for required R&R.
3. The vacation period between summer terms and fall semester is already too short.
4. Fall semester now extends too close to Christmas for non-local personnel.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Abide by the presently-constituted fall semester calendar, OR
2. Revise the Summer Term schedule, OR
3. Use only two days for registration as done in Diddle Arena, and only one day for Orientation.

Explanation of recommendations number two (2) and three (3):

One administrator suggested that by adding ten minutes (1 hr. 40 min. Vs. 1 hr. 30 min.) to each summer class session, only five weeks would be needed for each summer term. This would save one week of the present eleven devoted to summer terms. If this were done, fall semester could be started earlier and a fall break of up to one week could be instituted. Most resistance to this idea comes from students and others who work during the summer months.

In explanation of recommendation 3, this semester, three days were allotted to registration. One of those days was spent largely in collecting fees from students who had pre-registered. It is believed this activity could be accomplished concurrently with registration, thus saving one day. Also, this semester allotted two days to orientation in the class rooms. By scheduling shorter periods, the MWF classes could meet in the morning and the TThF classes could meet in the afternoon of the same day, thus saving one full day.

**ACTION:**

This committee has explored the several aspects of the question and has reached no consensus. These recommendations are presented to the full Senate for its consideration and disposition.

Frederick A. Clark