

Academic Calendar Change Proposal

The purpose of this **amendment** is to improve Student and Faculty morale during a semester that seems to never end, as well as increase the retention rate of the student body. It is a general consensus among students that a fall break is greatly needed and is well deserved. By comparing the University of Kentucky to other Benchmark schools, SEC schools, and the University of Louisville, it was found that we are one of the few schools that do not already have a Split Dead/ Finals week and Fall Break.

A faculty member has proposed that classes start the second to last Wednesday in August (1 week earlier), therefore making Winter Break 1 week longer. My amendment to that proposal calls for a split finals week. The split would be as follows: Finals would start on the Thursday of what would be scheduled as Finals Week under the new proposal. Finals would also be held on that Friday. Saturday and Sunday would be treated like any other weekend before finals. Finals would resume on Monday and last until that Wednesday.

With the three (3) days that were added to the calendar, the University could give students and faculty an extended weekend in Early to Mid October, preferably a Thursday-Friday, for either of the two options: (1) a mid-semester break following the week of Midterms or (2) a pre-midterm break referred to as either Dead Days, Study Days, etc, where University Rules of Spring Break would apply. As for the remaining day, it is requested to be used on the Wednesday before finals, serving as a Dead Day, where the University would run as normal, but no classes, meetings, etc should be held so that students can study for finals that would begin Thursday. An **alternative option** would be to use two of the days the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, allowing students to have the entire week of Thanksgiving off. The third day would still be used as a Dead Day the Wednesday before Finals.

Motion from SGA

We, the University of Kentucky Student Senate, recommend that the Fall Schedule incorporate a two (2) day Fall Break and a split finals week format, contingent upon the Academic Calendar beginning one (1) week earlier.