

**Report of Senate Council's ad hoc committee on proposed academic calendar changes – Joe Chappell, Ernie Yanarella, Kyle Kirk**

Who contacts who -

UK police – J Monroe, UK police [chief@uky.edu](mailto:chief@uky.edu) - Ernie

Parking Services - "Thornton, Don" [dathor1@email.uky.edu](mailto:dathor1@email.uky.edu) - Joe

UK Service Center – Peterson Service building – Robert Wiseman [robert.wiseman@uky.edu](mailto:robert.wiseman@uky.edu) - Joe  
(Coordinates the larger Auxiliary Services group)

Student Affairs - Jim Wims, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Residence Life, [jwims@email.uky.edu](mailto:jwims@email.uky.edu), Becky Jordan "Jordan, Becky" [rjordan@email.uky.edu](mailto:rjordan@email.uky.edu), <vahaz@pop.uky.edu>, "Henry, Steven S" [Scott.Henry@uky.edu](mailto:Scott.Henry@uky.edu), Tony Ralph – Joe (Because I meet with these folks as part of the meeting with Auxiliary Services)

Registrar – Don Witt – we already have a support letter from Don – Joe

University Academic Programs – Mike Mullen – we already have a support letter from Mike - Joe

Student Housing Sarah Nikirk, Associate Auxiliary Services Director, [sfn@email.uky.edu](mailto:sfn@email.uky.edu) - Joe (part of the larger Auxiliary Services group noted above)

Athletics – Mitch Barnhardt – Ernie

SGA - Kyle

Greek affairs (Sororities and Fraternities) – Kyle

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**Victor A. Hazard**  
**Interim Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students**

Dr. Chappell:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input, and believe you have received communication from Becky Jordan already.

I am aware that Jim Wims and Tony Ralph will be communicating with you as well relative to how this potentially impacts their area.

With respect to the Greek Affairs area, I believe feedback was sent to Mr. Kyle Kirk a member of a University Senate Council ad hoc committee.

In short, whenever classes start the sorority women would move back 2-3 weeks early. Their preference is to have the early recruitment interfere with summer jobs and family than have recruitment after classes have begun.

There may be a financial burden on all house corporations because they would need to employ house directors an extra week.

I am awaiting input from the DRC, and will send it on when I receive it.

I did not see where other areas in Student Affairs such as the Student Center and the Office of Student Involvement were copied this communication.

I will ask them to forward any input they may have by the deadline in place.

Thank you again for allowing us this opportunity.

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**Rebecca Jordan**  
**Associate Dean of Students**

Joe,

I support the calendar outlined in your attachment.

Becky

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**Parking Services**

The proposed changes will not have a negative influence on Parking and Transportation Services.

Have a good day,

Don

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**SGA/Greek Affairs – Kyle Kirk**

Dr. Chappell,

Dean West has been informed, I am just waiting on her reply.  
As for SGA, they are completely against it unless we, the SGA, can compromise on it.

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**Tony Ralph**  
**Associate Director, Office of Residence Life**

Joe – Just to echo the feedback that Jim Wims already sent for Residence Life . . . on the years that would be impacted by this change, the training we provide for R.A.s and Hall Directors would either need to be shortened by a week or started one week earlier. Given the difficulty students would likely have ending their summer jobs one week earlier, we would probably try to shorten our training period. This is something that is doable, so if other units support this change, we can do whatever is needed to make this work.

One additional comment – the impact on our unit would be greatly minimized if sorority recruitment were moved from before K-Week to after K-Week. This would allow us not to shorten training and would save the staff an extra weekend of move-in during their training period.

- Tony

**Report from the Senate Committee on Academic Advising – faculty responses to the proposed academic calendar changes from the Academic Advising Network – collected and compiled by Joe Chappell, Mark Coyne, Steve Parker and Yanira Paz**

**Comments to Proposed Calendar Change**

**Indifferent**

. . . How, if at all, would this proposal to change the rules governing the start of the fall semester affect units such as the College of Law that ordinarily start operating and teaching in the fall several days before the undergraduate campus comes to life? . . .

(College of Law)

The College of Dentistry doesn't follow the main University calendar. The changes would not affect us.

(College of Dentistry)

. . . I support the intent of this proposal, but -- as is, unfortunately, often the case with matters before the faculty Senate -- the proposal is rather poorly worded and ungrammatical . . . The proposed policy should be stated clearly and concisely and should stand on its own.

(Computer Science)

All of my fall field work falls within the term now. As such, starting earlier does not change any facts on the ground.

(Plant and Soil Sciences)

**Positive**

I think the idea is a good one and have no objection . . . Our faculty would really appreciate holding this change till the academic year of 2011-2012 since we are late in this academic year. This type of change needs to be discussed and passed in the fall semester for planning for multiple issues related to scheduling, classroom usage, student planning for the start of school etc.

(Physical Therapy Program)

Seems reasonable to me. I have sent the proposal to our College of Pharmacy administration for consideration.

(Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science)

## **Negative**

### A. Shortened Summer Research Period

. . . The summer is for me, as it is for most others in my department, the time when I get most of my research done. The precise impact the change would make is hard to quantify, but I am sure we would feel it as we are hurrying to finish projects at the end of the summer. I do not think that an extra week over the winter break would make up for that loss, since one cannot undertake major projects then as one does over the summer.. .

(Philosophy Department)

. . . Those adversely affected are productive faculty members who take the research mission of the University seriously and desperately need time to complete important research in August.

(Theatre)

Research is not something you can easily “split up” with 16 weeks between – a concentrated effort is required to conduct meaningful research.

(College of Nursing)

. . . Shortening our field season could be highly problematic, since we cannot simply return at the end of the fall semester to collect the additional data we would have collected during that last week in August. I disagree with the idea that we gain back research time at the end of the fall semester . . .

(Anthropology)

. . . Many musicians have late summer commitments that the new calendar would put into conflict. . . from a scholarly point of view I can't think that the new calendar will be beneficial to anyone engaged in serious research and writing over the summer. The time gained in December is not nearly as valuable as the time lost in the summer. By pushing back into the summer course preparations, etc., I see August becoming a lost month for most scholars in the arts, humanities, and perhaps social sciences. . . It is a very bad idea and I will do everything in my power to see that it is not passed.

(Music)

I find objection to this idea in that it limits the time to allow time in the summer for research and other academic endeavors. . . If you can oppose this I would be grateful. . .

(Chemistry)

. . . The "retention" argument is not convincing enough to start classes in mid-August. Indeed, such a start can penalize faculty with research and service programs that, of necessity, are intensified in the Summer. Moreover, hourly employees who are not involved in advising might have limited utility during an "extra" week prior to the holiday closing.. .

(Mechanical Engineering)

. . . concerned that the proposed calendar changes will shorten the time necessary to process fieldnotes and other data from summer research, take away from critical time to decompress from what--for many of us--is very emotionally and physically taxing research, begin working on publications based on summer research, and prepare for fall classes.

(Anthropology)

. . . think the proposal underestimates the effects it will have on either writing or preparing for what (at 16 weeks with basically no break because the Thanksgiving weekend is too late and too short) is a brutally long fall semester.

(Anthropology)

. . . concerned that this will eat into the summer field research periods of all of us b/c ours is a discipline that requires being away from Lexington and most often out of the country . . .

(Anthropology)

The change will shorten the time available for faculty to carry summer projects such as research, field work or course development.

(Educational Policy Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences)

## B. Interference with Conferences

. . . this may also conflict with summer conferences. I discovered that the ISME conference this summer runs through the Fall class start date . . .

(Department of Plant & Soil Sciences)

## C. Supporting Marginal Students

. . . the changes to the fall schedule aim to impact positively only those students who probably would be better served elsewhere.

(Theater)

The emphasis on student retention is NOT in the best interest of those students, or the qualified students who must attend class with them, or the faculty who are asked to spend extra time helping, tutoring, or filling out and then responding to Academic Alerts. . . . In the best interest of the students and the State of Kentucky, the University does not have to reach Top 20 by the number of students enrolled and retained. Better to do it by attracting and keeping excellent students and by helping faculty produce excellent research.

(Theater)

With improvements in communication (email) and the new University database, we are curious why we now need more time to notify students of their academic standing.

(Educational Policy Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences)

#### D. Imposing on the Majority of Students

While I understand we need to make every effort to support struggling students I do not feel these added burdens to the majority of students and to faculty are justified.

(College of Nursing)

The change will benefit a small number of students while shortening the time available for all students to work, travel or engage in other activities over the summer.

(Educational Policy Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences)

#### E. Economic Hardship on Other Students

. . . in these tight economic times more students must work full time in the summer – these jobs are tough enough to find without the added burden of a shortened income period.

(College of Nursing)

. . . the issue of effects on student summer paid work (raised in response to Q7) cannot be underestimated with this student body.

(Anthropology)

New graduate students are expected to be on campus well in advance of the semester for orientation. The earlier start time will be a financial burden for the students and it will make it more difficult to find faculty to help with orientation.

(Educational Policy Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences)

F. Economic Hardship on Faculty

Many faculty are also holding second jobs in the summer now to meet financial demands.

(College of Nursing)

The earliest start date is August 18 and 9 month faculty go back on contract August 15- this leaves them only two days to get everything ready for students, attend all the mandatory faculty meetings and get back to full gear. . . . It is unfair to assume these faculty would work pro bono to get everything lined up prior to the start date (the fact that many do this already is moot ).

(College of Nursing)

. . . we cannot, as the proposal states, easily substitute an additional week over winter break for the loss of the week during summer. To do so would require for additional funds to return to our field sites, an unwieldy and unrealistic option."

(Anthropology)