

AUC Student Affairs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Tuesday, October 6th, 2020 3:30pm

Location: Virtual Setting via Google Meets

Members Present: Hank Parkinson, Andrea Olmstead, Dennis Awasabisah, Felicia Farron-Davis, Jacalyn Kremer, Jason Smith, Jay Bry, Les Nelken, Robert Hynes, Robert Shapiro, Christopher Sutcliffe (Student), Mairead Weagle (Student), Agnes Frias (Student), Muhammad Mahmood (Student), Starr Brosseau (Student), Kerry McManus (Student)

Members Absent: Rose Kronziah-Seme

Guests: Alberto Cardelle, Christa Marr, Michael Nosek

Elected Committee Board:

Hank Parkinson elected as Chair

Mairead Weagle elected as Vice Chair

Starr Brosseau Elected as Secretary

Old Business:

None to note.

New Business:

Motion to recommend approval of AUC 1: Academic Calendar

Moved by Jay Bry

Second by Agnes Frias

Introduction:

This proposal includes two academic calendars, Fall 2021-Spring 2022 (155 instructional days), and Fall 2022-Spring 2023 (157 instructional days). The Fall 2021-Spring 2020 academic calendar was already approved last year, but must be reviewed again.

The academic calendar for Fall 2021-Spring 2022 has remained unchanged with one exception. During the Spring 2020 semester, policy AUC 14 was put in place to extend the deadlines for incomplete grades.

In the academic calendar for Fall 2022-Spring 2023, there are two important things to note: The President's Address and Development Day will occur on the same date, and Winter Commencement will be held on December 16th.

A significant change to the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 academic calendar is the re-introduction of a reading day (Wednesday, May 10th) in the Spring 2023 semester. The AUC Curriculum Committee has recommended that the reading day be reintroduced. Most of our sister institutions include reading days into their own academic calendar. (Cardelle)

Discussion:

Reading Day

What is a reading day and what is its purpose? (Kramer)

A reading day is a break between the final day of classes and beginning of the final exam period, to allow time for students to prepare for exams. (Cardelle)

One of the major reasons for the elimination of the reading day was because it was viewed as a good environmental strategy to reduce risks associated with “Spree Day”, which has been known to occur on the final day of spring classes. I would argue that we have seen success in this intervention. I would be concerned that the reintroduction of the reading day may heighten these risks. (Hynes)

We have considered this potential issue. Faculty have expressed concerns for the students who need this preparation day. There may be other solutions to limiting the opportunity for these potential risks. We may also be able to introduce a reading day into the Fall as well. (Cardelle)

I hate to see things being taken away from students who work hard, however, arrest data has been brought to the table (concerning reintroduction of reading day). What will be put into place to avoid the risks that have been associated with the reading day? (Olmstead)

There is a group of Student Affairs faculty that have come together to work to mitigate the risks associated with “Spree Day” and they have had a lot of positive advancement in regards to this. The reintroduction of the reading day two years from now means that we will have to come together to combat these risks. We have done alternative programming, offered free food to students throughout this day, the year before last it was approved to not allow guests on campus this day. We do our best to mitigate these risks with education, reminders of dangers, and diligence. (Parkinson)

Instating a Reading Day in the Fall Semester

If we reinstate the reading day, perhaps we should reinstate this for both semesters. If the logic holds for the spring semester, I believe it should hold for the fall semester as well. (Bry)

Would the fall semester allow for this, or are there too few academic days in the fall semester? (Kremer)

We would have to move around days in the fall semester in order to make this happen. (Cardelle)

I think that we should suggest a reading day in the Fall and Spring semester, or no reinstallation of the reading day at all. (Bry)

I wonder if we are able to collect data of the benefits of having the reading day in the spring semester-- and potentially use this to determine whether or not we should include it into the fall semester. (Shapiro)

I agree that it would be beneficial to include a reading day into the fall if we were able to fit this in with the academic calendar. (Kremer)

Motion to suggest reinstatement of reading day into both semesters, or neither semester (friendly amendment)

Moved by Jay Bry

Second by Robert Hynes

Motion does not pass.

This subcommittee can only submit a friendly amendment if there are specific wording changes you are proposing to the AUC. Otherwise, only suggestions can be made. (Nosek)

Alright, is anyone opposed to suggesting that AUC considers adding a ready day to the fall semester as well? (No opposition or concerns). (Parkinson)

AUC Student Affairs recommends that the AUC considers adding a reading day into the fall semester as well.

Indigenous Peoples Day

Are we able to amend October 11th as Indigenous Peoples Day, rather than Columbus Day in the academic calendar? (Shapiro)

Would the state have to make that decision or are we able to do so? (Parkinson)

The legislature failed at the state level. I am not sure if we are able to observe this as a university, that is something that we can explore. (Cardelle)

So we can put this in as a friendly amendment, so that it can go up to AUC for consideration. (Parkinson)

This gives us a chance to lead instead of follow. (Shapiro)

Do I hear a friendly amendment to consider revising Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day on both academic calendars? (Parkinson)

Motion to recommend revision of Columbus Day to “Indigenous Peoples Day”

Moved by Jacalyn Kremer

Second by Agnes Frias

Motion passes unanimously.

Holidays shifting weekly academic schedules

When I was on AUC Student Affairs, we had a robust discussion about the idea that different days have varying numbers of meeting times throughout the semester. Was there any discussion

again at the AUC level about sometimes transferring Mondays academic schedule to a Tuesday, etc? (Kremer)

It has been discussed within AUC several times. There has never been consensus, likely due to the confusion that switching academic schedules causes amongst both faculty and students. (Cardelle)

End of Discussion on AUC 1: Academic Calendar

Motion to recommend approval of AUC 1: Academic Calendar

Moved by Jay Bry

Second by Agnes Frias

*Notes: One friendly amendment (Indigenous Peoples Day) and one suggestion (Reading Day in the Fall) included in this motion

Motion to recommend approval passes with 2 nays.

Closing Comments:

Earlier today, a proposal was forwarded to AUC regarding altering the Spring 2021 semester academic calendar for a later start of that semester and elimination of Spring Break as added preventative pandemic control measures. AUC could not get this in time so that you could have it for this meeting. We are asking that each subcommittee submit a referral on this proposal prior to our November 5th meeting. So we are asking that you instate another subcommittee meeting in the month of October in order to address this proposal. (Cardelle)

Discussion:

Yes, we are able to do this, let's decide on a date and time right now. (Parkinson)

Could we keep it on a Tuesday at this time? (Farron-Davis)

Yes, we will look at either October 20th or 27th. (Parkinson)

For the faculty on the committee, there is a CTL faculty meeting on the 20th, so the 27th will work better. (Nosek)

A meeting invite will be sent out for Tuesday, October 27th at 3:30pm to discuss AUC 3 proposal. (Parkinson)

***Important Note: Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 27th at 3:30pm.**

Motion to adjourn meeting:

Moved by Mairead Weagle

Second by Jason Smith

Motion to adjourn meeting passes.