

AUC Student Affairs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Tuesday, October 27th, 2020 3:30pm

Location: Virtual Setting via Google Meets

Members Present: Hank Parkinson, Andrea Olmstead, Dennis Awasabisah, Felicia Farron-Davis, Jacalyn Kremer, Jason Smith, Les Nelken, Jay Bry, Rob Hynes, Robert Shapiro, Rose Kronziah-Seme. Agnes Frias (SGA Senator), Christopher Sutcliffe (SGA Senator), Mairead Weagle (SGA Senator), Starr Brosseau (SGA Senator)

Members Absent: Muhammad Mahmood (SGA Senator)

Guests: Catherine Canney, John Crawley, Michael Nosek, Nelly Wadsworth

Chairperson Hank Parkinson called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

Old Business:

None to note.

New Business:

Motion to recommend approval of AUC 3: Spring 2021 Academic Calendar

Moved by Jason Smith

Second by Andrea Olmstead

Motion passes unanimously.

Introduction:

This is a proposal to amend the Spring 2021 academic calendar on the premise of keeping the health and safety of the campus community to the forefront of the administration's priorities.

The calendar changes have three main components: 1) to extend the winter break by one week and therefore pushing the start of the Spring 2021 semester back by one week (classes would resume on January 25th), 2) the removal of Spring Break, 3) the addition of reading days.

The removal of college Spring Break is something that has been occurring across the nation, in regards to health and safety of campus communities. Many of FSU's sister institutions are in the midst of a very similar process as our own. Other schools are also implementing reading days to assist in breaking up the semester for students. The most prominent reason for this decision being the risk associated with the expected amount of travel associated with the break.\

This proposal includes the insertion of two reading days: one in February and the other in March. The implementation of the reading days will allow for the Spring 2021 semester to be broken up into smaller segments.

We are also looking into utilizing testing protocols that were utilized in the Fall, to offer free testing to the campus community prior to the semester beginning. This will also assist students who are coming from high risk states that may need to quarantine as we did in the Fall semester. The additional week of the winter break will also provide the opportunity for additional cleaning and disinfection of the campus prior to the community return.

Even with the extension of the winter break and inclusion of reading days, it is important to note that the ending date of the semester and date of Spring Commencement does not change. (Canney)

Note: This proposal has already gone through the AUC Curriculum and AUC Policy subcommittees. This will go through this subcommittee and will go onto the AUC Committee on Thursday, October 29th. Prior to making a decision on this proposal, the committee will consider the opinions of the three subcommittees as well as a campus-wide survey that was conducted by the committee.

Discussion:

Readings Days/Removal of Spring Break/Extension of Winter Break:

I understand that the extra week would allow for students traveling from high risk states to be tested and quarantined for two weeks-- is this being required? Is this mandated for these students? (Smith)

Yes this has been considered and spoken about. However, these protocols have not yet been concretely established. But this additional week allows for the possibility of these potential decisions. (Canney)

I am concerned about the placement of reading days on certain weekdays that may interfere with clinical days or courses that are only 7 week courses. I was wondering if this is something that you would take into consideration? (Kronziah-Seme)

That is something that we can consider. We take into account the number of classes per weekday when making our decision. We are also exploring the possibility of a third reading day. If we experience interference, we will try to switch up the weekdays of the reading days. (Canney)

Does this apply to the graduate courses as well? (Shapiro)

Yes. (Canney)

For me, the spring break has always meant a break in my academic classes, and I'm worried that the semester will not be broken up enough without the break. (Brosseau)

That is the purpose of the reading days, there will be no classes on these days and they will be non consecutive. There was another student in another subcommittee expressing a similar concern so we are looking into the possibility of including a third reading day. (Canney)

Just for clarification, the graduate courses would change, however, the online graduate portion would not-- correct? (Bry)

Yes, that is correct, thank you for that clarification. There are a subset of courses that are all online accelerated courses, they are on their own calendar, so that particular subset of courses would remain intact. (Canney)

Has there been any discussion on adding the third reading day at the very end of the semester? (Bry)

Yes that was the feedback we received from the student, and it is being considered. (Canney)

Are we only looking for a maximum of three reading days? (Frias)

A reading day is considered an instructional day, which we are required to hold a certain number of. A greater number of reading days would not necessarily have a negative impact, except to class meetings days. It is unlikely that we will go towards five reading days. (Canney)

The model that I am used to is a reading day between the last day of classes and the first day of final exams. Will it be possible to consider this placement of the reading day? (Kremer)

Yes, we are considering this placement, but it may not fall exactly on this day you are referring to. (Canney)

Motion to recommend approval of AUC 3: Spring 2021 Academic Calendar

Moved by Jason Smith

Second by Andrea Olmstead

Motion to recommend approval passes unanimously.

Closing Comments:

This proposal will move to the AUC committee next week, and will then be moved to the President as soon as possible for his approval. Once this occurs, we will get the word out to the campus community as soon as possible. (Canney)

Another thing I would like to note is that I am putting together the agenda for the AUC Committee meeting, and as of this date, there are no proposals that will be going out to the Student Affairs subcommittee. So there may be no need to meet at the next meeting scheduled for November 12th. (Nosek)

I have noted that, and I will update the subcommittee as we approach the next meeting date. (Parkinson)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Jay Bry

Second by Agnes Frias

Motion passes unanimously.

