

Fitchburg State University AUC Student Affairs

Date: Tuesday, October 5th 2021

Hybrid Model

Present: Kaitlyn Mobilia, Sam Poole, Mairead Weagle, Hank Parkinson, Dennis Awasabisiah, Felicia Farron Davis, Amy Wehe, Robert Hynes, Jane Fiske, Tara Mariolis, Donald Taraollo Jr, Jacalyn Kremer, Jason Smith, Deborah Benes, Franca Barricelli (Guest)

Absent: [Luke Eslinger](#) (Student), Jancy Vargas (Student)

Meeting called to order at 3:35pm

Old Business:

New Business:

- Motion to elect Hank Parkinson as Chair
- Motion to elect Sam Poole as Vice Chair
- Motion to elect [Kaitlyn Mobilia](#) as Secretary

Discussion: None ~motions passed unanimously~

- Motion to put AUC Proposal #1 on the table
Moved: Smith Seconded: Mariolis

Discussion:

AUC Proposal #1 discusses some brief changes to the Calendar for the Academic Year of 2023-2024. There will be 158 instructional days in this calendar. The Great Move-In will be on Labor Day. There are some additional language changes added in regards to red cards and when they apply to be red-carded into a class. The final day of classes for Fall semester would be December 13th, 2023. (Barricelli)

I notice the last day to withdraw from classes is Thursday, November 23rd. Given that's a Thanksgiving holiday do we have staff to push it out to be Friday, November 24th?
(Kremer)

I think the original concern with that language was we would be pushing it out too long. But I do believe we would have staff. (Barricelli)

If we want to make an adjustment like that someone would need to suggest a friendly amendment. (Parkinson)

Motion to make a friendly amendment to change the last day to withdraw from classes from Thursday, November 23rd to Friday, November 24th. (Kremer)

- Motion accepted by Barricelli

Motion to vote in favor of AUC proposal #1

Yes: 15

Abstain: 1

No: 0

~ Motion passes with 1 abstention ~

Is there any other discussion before I move into my own? (Parkinson)

Discussion:

I would like to put forth a motion that we discussed last year during AUC Student Affairs which was to recommend the removal of Columbus Day from the holiday, and officially recommend to change the title to Indigenous Peoples Day. As it stands in the calendar it is still recognized as Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day. (Parkinson)

Motion to recognize the holiday as Indigenous Peoples Day. (Parkinson)

- Motion passes unanimously

Before we adjourn, I do have one more question. I noticed that we do not have a reading day in between the last day of classes and the first day of classes. I was just curious as to why that is? (Poole)

For a lack of better words in the past we have seen a "Spree Day" turned into a day for students to be drinking. We have some concerning data that shows students barely even go to class. (Hynes)

Do we have data that shows how many students go to class or participate on the last day of classes? (Barricelli)

We do. I'm almost positive that Hank you were a part of this as well. If you can add to this but we have gone classroom to classroom and made contact with professors a couple of years ago. (Hynes)

You're right Dr. Hynes I was apart of that and the data did show that attendance was low overall and it showed that students were participating in high-risk activities.
(Parkinson)

From a student perspective it's extremely overwhelming to go from the last day of classes to jump right into finals. Also, when I came to fitchburg state as a freshman we didn't have a spree day and the campus was heavily patrolled by campus police. Especially as a Nursing student I feel like most students rely on that extra day in between to study. I know I use the day to study and I'm sure many other students do too. (Poole)

To add onto Sam's point, I'm not a Nursing student but that doesn't mean I take my academics less seriously. I think I speak for every student when I say that having an extra day isn't going to do any harm. There of course will be students who don't use the day for it's real purpose but you'll see that anywhere. We came to Fitchburg State at the same time and since our freshman year there hasn't been a real big spree day. To be entirely honest I don't think that students who are still here even know what spree day is. A lot of the upperclassmen when we were freshmen knew what it was and then it basically came to a cease. So I think it's safe to say that this population isn't going to know what it is. (Weagle)

Okay so I think we hear you and you're both right the data could be old. Why don't we get a recommendation to propose this to AUC for a formal change? This could also be proposed to include additional reading days. (Parkinson)

I think additional reading days would be helpful as well because

Discussion:

"From a student perspective I haven't seen a spree day. We haven't had those reading days, it's extremely stressful to go from the last day of classes to the first day of finals."
(Poole)

"The reading day is purposeful it's meant to spend time to prepare for finals" (Felicia)

"We do have data, high risk activities" (hank)

"Data was collected and classes were barely meeting" (Hynes)

"No fewer than 155 and no more than 160 instructional days in the calendar including finals" (Franka)

“I was wondering if we thought about additional reading days throughout the semester. I think we saw the benefit of having the wellness days, I think we should consider Feb”
(Poole)

“I think we should collectively and collaboratively discuss it” (franka)

- Recommendation to make 2 wellness days in spring 2024

Vote in favor of AUC #1

Ayes: 15

Abstain: 1

Motion passes with one abstention