

Memorandum

To: Senate Council Office

From: Ernest J. Yanarella, Chair

Re: April 21, 2006 Minutes of the Senate Ad Hoc Calendar Committee

On Friday, April 21, 2006, the Senate Ad Hoc Calendar Committee met. Present: Michael Kennedy, Joseph Sottile, Larry Grabau, Monica Hobson, and Ernest J. Yanarella (chair). Absent: Roy Moore. Also in attendance: Scott McIntosh. The meeting began at 1:03PM.

Yanarella reviewed the components of the tentative proposal for amending the Fall Semester calendar to create a week-long Fall Break to coincide with the week of the Thanksgiving holiday. Committee members reviewed each of the features of the tentative Fall Calendar proposal and agreed to the following actions:

- begin the Fall Semester on the Monday of start week, not Wednesday;
- eliminate the prevailing Fall Semester Break day (presently scheduled the first Friday in October);
- institute Fall Break Week to coincide with week of the Thanksgiving holiday;
- end the Fall Semester on Wednesday of the last week of classes
- allot Thursday and Friday of the last week as study days for finals
- begin and end exam week as currently scheduled

After some discussion, committee members decided that that advantages of eliminating Labor Day as a teaching holiday were outweighed by the drawbacks of holding classes when the rest of the University celebrating Labor Day as a national holiday. It was observed that even with maintaining Labor Day as a university holiday and thus holding no classes on that day, the Fall Semester would still have either one extra teaching day or the same number of teaching days as the Spring semester in future calendars. The discussion then turned to the compatibility and relative value of this proposal vis-à-vis the SGA proposal regarding restructuring Dead Week. Hobson and McIntosh, two sponsors of the SGA resolution, assured the Committee that the benefits of the modified proposal were sufficient to outweigh relative benefits students saw in SGA's recommendations. They indicated their support for the revised Committee proposal. Kennedy raised the question of whether Kentucky Welcome Week and Kentucky Fusion would be jeopardized by these changes. McIntosh suggested that the minor change to the beginning of the Fall Semester would only require a modest adjust of scheduling of these activities. In a Committee vote, the proposal passed unanimously.

Despite the Chair's concern to limit any proposal from this Committee to the Fall Semester only, Committee members considered the merits of modifying the Spring

Semester to parallel the revised Fall Semester schedule so that the Spring Semester would:

- begin on the Monday of the start week; and
- end on Wednesday of the last week of classes.

It was noted that there would be no net change in the number of days in the Spring Semester. Again, the Committee unanimously endorsed this addition to the Calendar Committee proposal.

Kennedy recommended that when the enlarged proposal was vetted through the Senate Council Don Witt and any other registrar staff be invited to evaluate the impact of proposed changes on other University activities. This suggestion was supported by Committee consensus.

The meeting closed at 1:48PM.