

Academic Advising Network Proposed Change to Senate Rule 2.1.2 (Academic Calendar)

Presented by Mike Shanks, Chair; Jennifer Alvarez, Secretary; Erica Caton, Chair-Elect; Susan Skees, Treasurer; Joanne Davis, Immediate Past Chair; Cecile McKinney, Public Relations; and Stephanie Mayberry, Event coordinator

Endorsement letters provided by Don Witt, Registrar and Mike Mullen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Proposal Intent – Adjust the start date of the Fall Semester to provide sufficient time between the end of the semester and the start of the holiday season break for the academic and student service advisors to inform, direct and advise students of their academic standing and options.

Process - The Council's designated liaison to the Advising Network, Chappell, began meeting with the representatives of the Network in Fall 2008 at their request. Recommended they develop a proposal to address their concern for Senate consideration.

April 2009, the Academic Advising Network forwarded a proposal to Chappell, and Chappell requested consideration of the proposal by the Senate Council.

Sept. 2009, presentation of the proposal to the Senate Council by the Academic Advising Network. Senate Chair in response to Council's recommendations appointed Chappell (Chair), Yarnarella, and Kirk to an ad hoc committee tasked to determine the impact and assessment of the proposal by the larger UK community.

Nov. 2009, ad hoc committee's request to report to the council on their review.

Jan. 2009, report to the Senate Council. Only one principal concern raised by Auxiliary Services – start of semester 1 week earlier than normal would involve additional operational and personnel costs. Chappell noted one option to address this concern would be to shift the Fall start date for only those years where the end of the semester limited the time available for the Academic and Student Service Advisors to complete their assigned notification tasks to less than 5 full working days prior to holiday break period. As illustrated in the table below, this would occur on average once every 4 to 5 years. Chappell offered some possible language changes to Senate rule 2.1.2 for accomplishing this.

Year	Current Fall Start Date	Current Fall End Date
2010-11	8/25	12/17
2011-12	8/24	12/16
2012-13	8/22	12/14
2013-14	8/21	12/13
2014-15	8/20	12/12
2015-16	8/26	12/18
2016-17	8/24	12/16
2017-18	8/23	12/15
2018-19	8/22	12/14
2019-20	8/21	12/13
2020-21	8/26	12/19

Question for Council:

Should Senate Council request the Academic and Student Advising Services to present a revised proposal for Senate consideration at their discretion and convenience? An equally important question, not necessarily to be resolved at the Feb. 1 Council meeting, should all pending and future calendar proposals be bundled for combined consideration?

Rationale for Advising Network's request:

The college advising and student services staff currently have 6-7 working days between the fall and spring semesters to do the following.

1. Review academic records for students who have been placed on academic probation or suspension.
2. Notify students who have been placed on academic probation or suspension in a timely manner with information regarding what they need to do to improve their academic standing.
3. Prepare materials and programs to assist student who are on academic probation.
4. Confirm December degrees and notify students who have not completed their requirements before the beginning of the spring semester.
5. Evaluate transcripts for new students who will be attending January advising conferences.

This also affects the Registrar's Office ability to process grades, enter degree confirmations, mail transcripts and perform other tasks related to student records. These reports are used to determine who will be placed on academic probation and who will be academically suspended. The processing and release of these reports is contingent upon when a semester ends.

The Provost has "declared war on attrition" and implored all units across the UK campus to do what they can to help decrease the number of students not returning to UK. The Advising and Student Services offices play a key role in informing and supporting students to succeed at UK, and take the Provost's charge very seriously. In certain years, we simply do not have enough time from the end of Fall semester to get ourselves informed and then properly advise and administer to students in academic jeopardy. As you are aware, there has been a rise in the number of students who either are not academically prepared for college or do not have the appropriate study skills and/or time management skills to be successful, so the number of students who are on academic probation or eligible for suspension has increased substantially. Therefore, the advising and student services staff need more time to review the increasing number of student records and prepare programs to assist these students. This is in addition to preparing for all the other "opening of term" advising conferences for new and readmit students, and attending to the advising needs for all continuing students in good academic standing.

Current Senate rule for start of Fall Semester

2.1.2 TIMING OF SEMESTERS

A. Fall Semester

When Labor Day falls on September 1 or 2, classes will start on the Wednesday before Labor Day. When Labor Day falls on September 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, classes will start on the Wednesday 12 days before Labor Day. The last day of classes will be on a Friday. Final examinations will run for 5 days, Monday through Friday. Final examinations for weekend classes will be administered the weekend before this 5 day period. [US: 12/10/84; US: 3/20/95; US: 4/9/01]

Proposed Council Response to the Proposed Calendar Change

1. That the Fall semester begin the third or fourth Wednesday in August. The start date should be chosen to allow for a minimum of 5 (five) full working days between the end of the Fall academic Semester and the beginning of the University's December holiday season break. The Fall Semester shall last 16 weeks including finals week.
2. All other currently instituted University Calendar scheduling practices remain unchanged—i.e., that:
 - a. the Spring semester begin as currently instituted the second Wednesday in January and last 16 weeks including finals week;
 - b. the Summer I session begin on the first Thursday after the end of the Spring semester and last 4 weeks (20 days); and
 - c. the Summer II session begin the first Thursday after the end of the first summer session ends and will last 8 weeks (40 days).