

Summary of Responses to Proposed Academic Calendar

1. 65 faculty (58) and staff (7) responded to the request for comment.
2. 3 faculty expressed opposition to the move to semesters. One was opposed because of the cost involved, another claimed that semesters are not in students' interests, and the third was opposed because the move could damage the university's competitiveness when it comes to recruiting and retaining students.
3. The tone of the responses was very civil and affirmative, and many thoughtful recommendations were advanced, as the following list illustrates:
 - a. 21 respondents recommended a later start for the spring semester to allow for at least a four week break. The reasons were to have more time for research, for education abroad, and for department/school programs (Environmental and Plant Biology and Geology) based on off-campus learning.
 - b. 15 respondents recommended a later start for fall semester. The reasons were to lengthen the summer break to allow more time for research, to save on cooling costs in university buildings, and to allow more time for family vacations during the month of August
 - c. 12 respondents recommended that the university calendar should coincide with the calendar of Athens schools. First, if the university begins its fall semester ahead of the fall start date for Athens schools, families will have childcare problems. Second, if the university starts its spring semester before Athens schools begin after the holiday break, families again will have childcare problems. Third, the university's spring break should be aligned with the Athens schools' spring break for similar reasons.
 - d. 6 respondents recommended the longest possible summer break for reasons noted above.
 - e. 3 respondents recommended having Monday through Friday off for the week on which Thanksgiving falls.
 - f. 2 respondents recommended that the summer calendar should accommodate the schedules of regional school teachers
 - g. 2 respondents recommended exploring a "maymester"
 - h. 2 respondents recommended that all university employee groups be consulted so that the consequences for their members' work lives of moving to semesters can be fully anticipated and the necessary change managed effectively.
 - i. 2 respondents recommended a shorter break between semesters so that the spring semester ends as early as possible
 - j. 3 respondents recommended that the issues surrounding early retirement be addressed and clarified as soon as possible
 - k. 2 respondents recommended deleting the 10/12/12 holiday on the proposed calendar because it creates an imbalance in the number of MWF class days and TTh class days.
 - l. 1 respondent recommended considering a longer final exam schedule since students will be taking more classes in a semester system