

Resolution 2019-2020: Calendar Proposal from Faculty

Whereas, the office of Academic Affairs has initiated an Ad Hoc Committee of faculty, chairs, deans, and administrators, tasked with exploring possible changes to the academic calendar, to go into effect no earlier than Spring 2021; and

Whereas, Faculty Senate, in its capacity found in the UT Tyler Handbook of Operating Procedures, 3.6.0.D, Article II, includes among its duties “to make recommendations to the President of the University and for the administration of UT Tyler to seek the judgment and counsel of the faculty about matters of mutual concern”; and

Whereas, Faculty Senate, in this capacity, conducted a survey from October 28 to November 8 to gather faculty input on proposed changes to the Academic Calendar; and

Whereas, poll results found that, in response to the question “How satisfied are you with the current academic calendar, consisting of 55 minute classes, 10 minutes between each class and 14 weeks of instruction, 1 exam week?”, 69% were either “Extremely satisfied” (66 respondents; 37%) or “Somewhat satisfied” (58 respondents; 32%), with only 13% either “Somewhat dissatisfied” (16 respondents; 9%) or “Extremely dissatisfied” (8 respondents; 4%); and

Whereas, when given the choice of a semester of 14 weeks, 15 weeks, or 16 weeks, 44% (80 respondents) voted in favor of the current 15-week semester, 40% (72 respondents) voted in favor of a 14-week semester, and 16% (29 respondents) voted in favor of a 16-week semester; and

Whereas, based on repeated qualitative comments on the survey regarding the need for a Fall Break in the middle of the semester for the well-being of students and faculty alike; then

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate endorses maintaining the current 15-week calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends working with the Office of Academic Affairs and with the Student Government Association to work in creating a short break in the Fall Semester in addition to the Labor Day holiday and the Thanksgiving holidays.