SENATE RESOLUTION #1768

Title: Academic Calendar Changes

Date: February 28, 1994

Author: Senator Farnam

Sponsors: Senators Farnam, Paul, Wilmetti and Workman

1 WHEREAS, the current academic calendar of the University of
2 Wyoming offers breaks during the fall semester only for Labor
3 Day and Thanksgiving; and
4 WHEREAS, the number of weeks of consecutive classes under the
5 current and proposed academic calendars range from ten to
6 eleven weeks; and
7 WHEREAS, having this amount of time with no break has a
8 negative impact on the performance of those served by the
9 University; and
10 WHEREAS, in accordance with the principles established by the
11 Calendar Committee of the University of Wyoming, a four day
12 weekend during the fall semester is attainable without
13 revising the proposed calendars for academic years 1995-1996,
14 1996-1997 and 1997-1998; and
15 WHEREAS, revising the proposed calendars for academic years
16 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 to a finals schedule that encompasses
17 Tuesday through Saturday allows for a four day weekend during
18 the fall semester; and
19 WHEREAS, the proposed academic calendars do not provide for
20 the Monday following Easter as a holiday, which is problematic
21 for students who must travel for the Easter Holiday;
22 THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Senate of the
Associated Students of the University of Wyoming, that the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming approve the proposed academic calendars through the year 2000 with the addition of a Fall Break between Labor Day and Thanksgiving Breaks, consisting of a Monday/Tuesday or a Thursday/Friday combination; and

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the academic calendars for 1995-2000 reflect an Easter Break that includes the Monday immediately following Easter Sunday. (see addendum).

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Date of Passage: March 1, 1994  Signed: 

"Being enacted on March 2, 1994, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action."
University of Wyoming Calendar Principles

Pursuant to our agreement that we would submit a recommended calendar for 1995-96 based upon the major set of principles adopted by the Calendar Committee, the proposed calendar is attached. The calendar is in accord with the following long-term principles prepared by the committee:

1. There shall be a minimum of 70 instructional days each semester.
2. There shall be a minimum of 15 instructional weeks for classes, with a minimum of 14 days for each day of the week, if possible.
3. The final examination period shall be changed from 6 to 5 days.
4. The fall semester shall be completed by no later than December 20 each year.
5. Spring break shall be scheduled the first full week in March each year.
6. Commencement shall be the second Saturday in May each year.
7. It is desirable for the Spring semester to begin the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day, with general registration on Tuesday and the first day of classes on Wednesday. This principle is employed in the recommended calendar for 1995-96. When Martin Luther King Day falls too late in January, the semester shall begin the week before Martin Luther King Day, with classes beginning on Monday.
8. Because of the introduction of Martin Luther King Day and the past policy of granting the Monday after Easter as a holiday, Spring semesters could always be short at least one Monday. A decision will need to be made concerning the relative importance of having a minimum of 14 instructional Mondays during the Spring semester versus the importance of maintaining Martin Luther King Day and the Monday after Easter as holidays. The practice of changing a Tuesday instructional day into a Monday instructional day should be discontinued as a means of solving this problem. The committee suggests that the university eliminate the Monday after Easter as a holiday, as reflected in the attached recommended calendar for 1995-96.
9. The university calendar shall be the calendar followed for university outreach programs, including UW/CC. Current practices of following community college calendars result in UW faculty and some UW students having no spring break.
10. The university and the Wyoming community colleges should cooperate toward the long-term goal of establishing a common calendar for post-secondary education in Wyoming.