

Date: 28 October 2019
To: SEC / Senate
From: D.J. Hopkins, Chair, Academic Policy and Planning Committee
Subject: ACTION: Revision of Policy File regarding Calendar

ACTION: The AP&P Committee moves that the Senate revise the Calendar section of the University Policy File under University Policies/ Academics as follows:

Each Fall (or earlier, if possible), the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs - Student Achievement (in consultation with appropriate campus officers) shall prepare the Academic Calendar for the following year including any winter, summer, or other supplemental sessions, referencing

- guidelines established
- a) by the State of California, and an approved set of rules, principles, and algorithms to create it; the Calendar shall then
- b) be presented to the Senate ~~as an information item~~ for approval and recommendation to the President.

However, the Calendar shall be presented for review to the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning for any year in which there are special circumstances that call for deviation from the approved rules, principles and algorithms; the Committee's report shall then be forwarded to the Senate for approval and recommendation to the President.

Rationale

The introduction of a 2019 pilot winter session led to lively debates on the Senate floor and in other venues of shared governance on campus about whether its length was adequate to ensure academic integrity. Subsequently the Senate debated the proposed 2020 pilot winter session in its September 3, 2019 meeting and voted not to approve it. At the time of the debate and the vote, many Senators were under the impression that it was within the Senate's purview to approve changes to the academic calendar, including the length of any proposed winter session. That was a mistaken assumption. Currently the policy file requires that the academic calendar be presented to the Senate each year as an information item only, leaving the Senate with no role in the approval process of any winter, summer, or other possible supplemental sessions. The exclusion of the Senate from the approval process of the academic calendar deprives it of the ability to ensure the integrity of academic programs and is a flaw in the policy file that the proposed changes remedy.