Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2016-17I
Resolution to Revise University Calendar Criteria (Presidential Policy Memorandum 228)

Approved by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies: March 20, 2017
Faculty Senate Review: Waived
Affirmed by Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies: March 15, 2017
First Reading by University Council: March 27, 2017
Second Reading by University Council: April 10, 2017
Approved by President:
Effective: Fall 2017

WHEREAS, the university calendar criteria require 72 instructional days for fall and spring terms as well as two separate summer session terms, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine will become the university's ninth college on July 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the University Committee on Academic Support has considered the need and impact of creating an additional university holiday and transitioning the instructional calendar needs of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine as well as construct flexibility for innovative delivery of instruction, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey found that 90 percent of students and 76 percent of faculty at Virginia Tech would prefer that the university hold no classes on Labor Day and 24 of Virginia Tech's 25 SCHEV peers hold no classes on Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, President Sands has indicated his support of no classes on Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, the current academic calendar includes adequate contact hours during the fall term to permit Virginia Tech to reduce the semester by one day without affecting the defined instructional semester calendar length; and

WHEREAS, existing university calendar criteria do not accommodate the loss of one instructional day, and

WHEREAS, the university cannot reduce the number of days between the end of term and Fall commencement due to the length of exams and Fall commencement ceremony, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine has an academic calendar that falls outside of the current established fall, spring, and summer terms, and

WHEREAS, the construct of two summer terms limits the university's ability to accommodate all constituent needs and provide innovative instructional modules, and

WHEREAS, the university can construct multiple timelines to allow multiple sessions within the overarching one term (including the current standard Summer I and Summer II) thus allowing the opportunity for a Budget Tuition Plan for students, and

WHEREAS, multiple timelines can be used to create flexibility in scheduling in order to accommodate unique modules that may be developed around Destination Areas,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the University Calendar be revised as follows:

- Labor Day be stipulated as a non-class day.
- Restate the number of class days in a term to 71 days in the fall and 72 days in the spring.
- Summer term to be defined as one term that may be divided into a variety of different periods in addition to the traditional Summer I and Summer II schedules.
- All other calendar criteria remain as previously stated:
  - The Fall Commencement Ceremony shall be scheduled after the completion of final exams whenever possible.
  - Fall semester shall include a long weekend break in October to allow a short break.
  - The fall semester shall contain a one-week break for the Thanksgiving holiday. The spring semester shall contain a one-week break approximately half-way through spring semester.
  - No class days are held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
  - There shall be at least two days between the end of spring semester examinations and the spring commencement. This necessitates a Saturday examination day.
  - There shall be no scheduling of Spring Commencement on the same weekend as Commencement at Radford University.
  - There will be no classes on Memorial Day and Independence Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that effective with the 2017-18 Academic Year, Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is designated as a university holiday and the university is closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all applicable polices and employee handbooks will be updated to reflect this change,