Date: December 19, 2014
To: Academic Senate Committees
From: Gina Anderson, Executive Director
Subject: UC Davis Academic Calendar 2016-17 through 2022-23

On Tuesday, December 16, 2014, the Academic Senate Office learned that the proposed UC Davis academic calendar was approved by UC Provost Aimee Dorr except the proposal for Academic Year 2020-21 (see enclosed).

The Academic Senate was consulted about the proposed changes to the academic calendar and submitted feedback spring quarter 2014. The approved academic calendar eliminates Saturday finals. In addition the total instructional days each quarter has changed to fall-50, winter-48 and spring-48.

This is an informational item. No response is requested. Questions should be directed to the University Registrar, Elias Lopez at eslopez@ucdavis.edu.

Enclosure
cc: University Registrar Lopez
CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for submitting proposed calendars for review and approval.

For the campuses on the semester calendar, I am pleased to approve proposed calendars for 2017-18 through 2020-21. I also request that you submit an additional two years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, so that all UC campuses are on the same calendar review period. Please submit proposed calendars for 2021-22 and 2022-23 by January 31, 2015.

For the campuses on the quarter calendar, I am pleased to approve the calendars for academic years 2017-18 through 2019-20 and for 2021-22 through 2022-23.

As for the 2020-21 calendar, I am going to hold off on any action until later this year for the following reason. In fall 2020 the usual date for residence hall move-in for quarter campuses coincides with Rosh Hashanah and triggers the religious holiday conflict policy. In their proposed calendars, all quarter campuses except UC Davis handle this by delaying the start of instruction by one week, to October 1, 2020. This results in a shorter winter break from three weeks to two.

This year, 2014-15, also presented a calendaring challenge - the first day of instruction for quarter campuses would have coincided with the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Campuses accommodated this by delaying the start of instruction to October 2, 2014, which shortened the winter break from three weeks to two. I have been advised by campus leaders that the shortened winter break may cause significant hardship for faculty, students, and staff, particularly in connection with calendaring final exams, timely submission of grades, and course and grading complications that extend into and affect course enrollment in the winter quarter.

The policy on conflict with religious holidays provides an exception for those instances in which overriding academic or administrative considerations would make unworkable a calendar that would not create a conflict between observance of a major religious holiday and residence hall move-in dates.
Accordingly I have decided to delay the decision on the quarter campuses' proposed calendar for 2020-21 until after the beginning of the 2015 winter term. This will allow the experience of this year to inform my decision on the 2020-21 calendar.

Cordially,

[Signature]

Aimée Dorr, Provost  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

cc: Executive Vice Chancellors  
Vice President Brown  
Vice President Sakaki  
Council of Registrars  
Director Greenspan
President Janet Napolitano
UC Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Janet:

This past year, UC students voiced their concern with the 2014-15 academic calendar and the reduced winter break they will experience. We also received student requests to end Saturday finals. In order to address these concerns, at UC Davis we have spent a great deal of time working with students to explore different options that will more closely meet their needs and also ensure that we are in alignment with the university’s academic calendar guidelines.

We are proposing calendars that meet all of the university’s guidelines with the exception of Fall quarters. To meet the needs of our students, we are proposing to have instruction begin on Wednesday instead of Thursday each Fall, which would allow us to eliminate Saturday finals. This change may be something the entire system might wish to consider, as other campuses are also struggling with the Saturday final situation. The change puts 50 days of instruction into Fall and 48 in Winter and Spring, maintaining the required 146 days of instruction.

The 2020-21 academic calendar is the next time we could face a reduced winter break. To protect the length of the winter break, we are proposing to open our halls on the Thursday and Friday prior to the religious holiday. Welcome week activities would occur the following week, with instruction beginning on Wednesday. We recognize this will require unique marketing to the families of our incoming students; however, we believe they will be supportive of this as it will allow their student to be home for three instead of two weeks that winter.

These calendars have been reviewed broadly on our campus and the changes outlined above have received solid support, as they will allow us to meet the needs and concerns of our students. We appreciate in advance your thoughtful review of our proposed academic calendars.

Sincerely,

Linda P.B. Katehi
Chancellor

/pro

Attachment

c: Provost Aimée Dorr
   Vice Chancellor Adela De La Torre
UC Davis Proposed Academic Calendar for 2016-17 to 2022-23