

AR 3: In Support of an Extended Thanksgiving Break

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WHEREAS Student Government serves as the official voice of students at The University of Texas at Austin; and,

WHEREAS In Spring 2013, the Academic Calendar Committee of Faculty Council presented a proposal regarding a two day break to occur during the fall semester; and,

WHEREAS The proposal did not pass a vote of the General Faculty; and,

WHEREAS The Academic Calendar Committee has expressed interest in either tabling changes to the calendar indefinitely or disbanding the committee entirely if no action is brought forth this year; and,

WHEREAS The current academic calendar only provides a two day break for the Thanksgiving Holiday; and,

WHEREAS An alternative idea which emerged during discussion and deliberation was considering altering the week of Thanksgiving break; and,

WHEREAS Many institutions including University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill¹, University of Michigan², University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign³, University of Indiana⁴, Ohio State University⁵, University of Kansas⁶, Kansas State University⁷, Iowa State University⁸, University of Oklahoma⁹, Oklahoma State University¹⁰, Baylor University¹¹, Brown University¹², Harvard University¹³, Yale University¹⁴, Princeton University¹⁵, and Georgetown

¹ <http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-calendar/academic-years-2013-2014-and-2014-2015-3/>

² <http://www.ro.umich.edu/calendar/fa13.php>

³ <http://admissions.illinois.edu/academics/calendars.html>

⁴ <http://registrar.indiana.edu/official-calendar/official-calendar-fall.shtml>

⁵ http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/archive_bigcal_sem.pdf

⁶ <http://www.registrar.ku.edu/fall-2013-academic-calendar-date>

⁷ <http://www.k-state.edu/cgi-bin/eventview/registrar/academic>

⁸ <http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/calendar/cal-fall139>

⁹ <http://www.ou.edu/admin/facsen/minutes/1000jrn.htm>

¹⁰ http://registrar.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=438

¹¹ <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/123151.pdf>

¹² <http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Registrar/calendar.html>

¹³ <http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/calendar?mini=2013-10>

¹⁴ <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/2013%E2%80%932014-academic-calendar>

¹⁵ <http://registrar.princeton.edu/academic-calendar/Fall-2013-2014.pdf>

University¹⁶, offer at least the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving as an official holiday; and,

WHEREAS The concerns raised by faculty during the Fall Break deliberations are not an issue here as the week of Thanksgiving has never been a full instructional week; and,

WHEREAS Mr. Shelby Stanfield, Vice Provost and Registrar, reported that making the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving an official holiday would not present major issues in the arrangement of the academic calendar provided we maintain 70 instructional days; and,

WHEREAS Since the Fall semester always begins on a Wednesday, the schedule can be easily altered because of the two available days in August; and,

WHEREAS Students stand to benefit from the change by having reduced uncertainty in scheduling visits to their homes for Thanksgiving and by providing additional study time close to the final exam period; and, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin supports declaring the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving as an official holiday; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin calls upon the Academic Calendar Committee of Faculty Council to consider and bring forth this proposal to the full Faculty Council; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the academic calendar will be set to be completed at least one day earlier in August; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Hillary Hart, Chair of Faculty Council; Dr. Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President; Mr. Shelby Stanfield, Vice Provost and Registrar, and all members of the Academic Calendar Committee

¹⁶ <http://registrar.georgetown.edu/calendars/>