

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RULES COMMITTEE
concerning
AMENDMENTS TO THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR
FOR THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR

Presented at the
803rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 11, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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In February 2021 the Provost convened a special committee to explore certain changes to the Academic Calendar that have been under discussion for some time both among the Five Colleges and around this campus. The special committee included Senior Vice Provost Carol Barr as chair, University Registrar Patrick Sullivan, Faculty Senate Rules Committee Chair Lisa Green, Academic Matters Council Chair Janet Fink, and others. It produced the proposal and offers these explanations of the major changes.

Explanation of the Proposed Changes to the 2021-22 Academic Calendar

Starting the Fall semester on September 1st would align the UMass academic calendar with that of other members of the Five Colleges consortium looking to start the Fall semester earlier than has been usual in the past. Adopting a Sept. 1st start date for the Fall term would assist students wanting to participate in the Five College exchange.

Taking advantage of that earlier start to the Fall term to increase the number of days available for Wintersession. This proposal includes 26 instructional days, which is as close as is possible to get to a full 6-week (30 instructional days) Wintersession in 2021-22. The six week Wintersession offered this year (2020-21) proved much more conducive to good instruction, as evidenced by the greater number of course offerings by departments and faculty and the increase in students taking Wintersession classes.

Ending the Spring semester during the second week of May so that students can be competitive for summer jobs.

Establishing new Summer schedules that will include both the customary two 30-day UWW Summer sessions and enough time for the University Summer session to become a full academic semester (13 weeks or 65 instructional days). As with the expanded Wintersession, this change will increase opportunities for full semester course delivery and provide students with a greater variety of Summer options.

(THE PROPOSED CALENDAR BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.)

MOTION That the Faculty Senate approve the amendments to the Academic Calendar
28-21 for Academic Year 2021-22, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 19-071A.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2021-22

FALL 2021

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|----|
| First Day of classes | Wednesday | September | 1 |
| Holiday – Labor Day | Monday | September | 6 |
| Monday class schedule will be followed | Wednesday | September | 8 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record – Matriculated Undergraduate and Non-degree students | Wednesday | September | 8 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record – Matriculated Graduate students | Wednesday | September | 15 |
| Holiday - Columbus Day | Monday | October | 11 |
| Last day to Drop with 'DR' – Graduate (including UWW) | Thursday | October | 28 |
| Last day to Drop with 'W' and select 'P/F' - Undergraduate, Stockbridge, UWW Ugrad | Thursday | October | 28 |
| Registration begins for Spring 2022 | Monday | November | 8 |
| Holiday – Veterans' Day | Thursday | November | 11 |
| Thursday class schedule will be followed | Tuesday | November | 23 |
| Thanksgiving recess begins following end of classes | Tuesday | November | 23 |
| Classes resume | Monday | November | 29 |
| Last day of classes | Wednesday | December | 8 |
| Reading Day | Thursday | December | 9 |
| Final examinations begin | Friday | December | 10 |
| Reading Day | Saturday | December | 11 |
| Last day of final examinations | Thursday | December | 16 |
| Snow day for exams, semester ends | Friday | December | 17 |
| Final grades due by midnight | Wednesday | December | 22 |

Number of class meetings: MTuWThF: 13

WINTER 2021/2022

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----|
| First Day of classes | Friday | December | 17 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record | Thursday | December | 23 |
| Holiday - Christmas | Saturday | December | 25 |
| Holiday – New Years Day | Saturday | January | 1 |
| Last day to drop with "W" or "DR" and select 'P/F' | Friday | January | 7 |
| Holiday – Martin Luther King day | Monday | January | 17 |
| Last day of classes | Monday | January | 24 |
| Final grades due | Monday | January | 31 |

SPRING 2022

| | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|----|
| First day of classes | Tuesday | January | 25 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record – Matriculated Undergraduate and Non-degree students | Monday | January | 31 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record – Matriculated Graduate students | Monday | February | 7 |
| Holiday - Presidents' Day | Monday | February | 21 |
| Monday class schedule will be followed | Tuesday | February | 22 |
| Spring recess begins | Sunday | March | 13 |
| Classes resume | Monday | March | 21 |
| Last day to Drop with 'DR' – Graduate (including UWW) | Tuesday | March | 29 |
| Last day to Drop with 'W' and select 'P/F' - Undergraduate, Stockbridge, UWW Ugrad | Tuesday | March | 29 |
| Registration begins for Fall 2022 | Monday | April | 11 |
| Holiday - Patriot's Day | Monday | April | 18 |
| Monday class schedule will be followed | Wednesday | April | 20 |
| Last day of classes | Wednesday | May | 4 |
| Reading Day | Thursday | May | 5 |
| Final examinations begin | Friday | May | 6 |
| Reading Day | Saturday | May | 7 |
| Last day of final examinations, semester ends | Thursday | May | 12 |
| Graduate and Undergraduate Commencements | Friday | May | 13 |
| Stockbridge Commencement | Saturday | May | 14 |
| Final grades due by Midnight | Thursday | May | 19 |

Number of class meetings: MTuWThF: 13

| UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2021-2022 (Continued) | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|----|
| UWW SUMMER 2022 | | | |
| First day of classes - Session One | Thursday | May | 19 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record – Session One | Wednesday | May | 25 |
| Holiday - Memorial Day | Monday | May | 30 |
| Monday class schedule will be followed | Thursday | June | 2 |
| Last day to drop with "W" or "DR" and select 'P/F' any Session One class | Tuesday | June | 14 |
| Last day of classes - Session One | Thursday | June | 30 |
| Holiday - Independence Day | Monday | July | 4 |
| Session One final grades due | Thursday | July | 7 |
| First day of classes - Session Two | Monday | July | 11 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record – Session Two | Friday | July | 15 |
| Last day to drop with "W" or "DR" and select 'P/F' any Session Two class | Wednesday | August | 3 |
| Last day of classes - Session Two; Summer Term ends | Friday | August | 19 |
| Remaining Summer grades due | Thursday | August | 25 |
| UNIVERSITY SUMMER 2022 | | | |
| First day of classes | Thursday | May | 19 |
| Last day to add or drop any class with no record | Wednesday | May | 25 |
| Holiday – Memorial Day | Monday | May | 30 |
| Holiday – Independence Day | Monday | July | 4 |
| Last day to drop with "W" or "DR" | Thursday | July | 7 |
| Last day of classes | Friday | August | 19 |
| Final grades due | Thursday | August | 25 |