

To: All Faculty
From: Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Calendar Committee
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Linda Orth (ex officio)
Date: February 22, 2005

After some considerable effort, we have prepared for you a revised Academic calendar that represents what we believe to be a reasonable compromise between many competing interests. Before we review the changes we are suggesting, let us review the constraints of creating the revised calendar.

A. Fixed Requirements

First, there are a number of fixed requirements to which any calendar must conform. The first of these are the academic requirements of UTC's calendar. The Fall and Spring semester calendars must:

- Include 70 days of classes with each week day meeting the same number of times;
- Include a reading day; and
- Provide 5 days of exams.

Second, there are specific administrative matters that must be addressed including:

- Recognition of all legal holidays; and
- Recognition of financial aid regulations.

Finally, the schedule must include other administrative matters including adequate time for faculty to determine final grades and deliver these to the Records & Registration Office with sufficient time to process before Commencement.

B. ...Of shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and

Second, we were faced with many competing personal interests among the faculty, and between faculty interests and student interests. These competing interests were irreconcilable, especially in light of the fixed demands listed above. Some of the issues that have been raised include:

- the desire to have a week-long fall break;
- the desire to coordinate breaks with Hamilton County schools;
- the necessity for some programs to have multiple summer terms to serve their student base;
- the inability of some programs to cover course material equivalent to that offered in a full semester in the shortened summer program;
- the desire to maintain three graduations per year;
- the desire to avoid graduation on Mother's Day;
- and the desire to allow more time between semesters to aid with petitions, grade appeals, registration, and financial aid.

With these requirements and objectives in mind, we present the following model for a revised calendar. We have specified the details for the 2005-2006 academic year as an example, as the approved 2005-2006 calendar is available on the UTC website to allow an "apples to apples" comparison. However, the algorithm used to create this calendar will work for subsequent years as well. The following documents outline the suggested structure of the new academic year.

As you will see, there is a longer winter break. In addition, the summer sessions have been revised. What were once five summer sessions (two 7.5-week sessions and two 5-week sessions) is now one 11-week session and two 5.5 week sessions; this is consistent with the summer sessions of other schools in our conference and other universities in the Tennessee system. Note that if this calendar model were adopted, it would be necessary to determine whether to allow graduation to occur on Saturday, and which of the two possible dates for spring break would be selected.

While no calendar can satisfy all of the requirements and differing faculty and program interests, we ask for your thoughtful consideration of the suggested calendar, and how to best meet the needs of our faculty and students in any calendar changes.

FICTITIOUS 2005
For comparison purposes only

Disclaimer

This is not nor will it become the 2005-2006 UTC calendar. The 2005-2006 year is used here for comparison purposes only. Please refer to the UTC website for the actual 2005-2006 UTC calendar, which is not subject to change.

Classes Begin	August 22
Labor Day Holiday	September 2
Last day to withdraw with "W"	October 21
Last day to remove Spring/Summer I's	November 11
Fall Break	October 17 and 18
Thanksgiving Travel Day	November 23
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 24, 25
Last day of classes	December 5
Reading Day	December 6
Final Exams	December 7, 8, 9, 12, 13
Grades Due	December 15 Noon
Commencement	December 17 or 18

Calendar Requirements:

70 Class Days
14 Weeks
5 Exam Days
W – after 42nd day of class
Mid term grades 7th week of class

Fall Calendar

Has 70 Class Days
Each Weekday meets 14 times
5 Exam Days

FICTITIOUS Spring 2006

MLK Holiday	January 16
Classes Begin	January 17
Last Day to Withdraw with "W"	March 17
Last Day to Remove Fall I's	April 13
Spring Break	March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 or April 10, 11, 12, 13,
Spring Holiday (Good Friday)	April 14
Last Day of Classes	May 1
Reading Day	May 2
Final Exams	May 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Grades Due	May 11 Noon
Commencement	May 13 or 14 (Mother's Day 14th)

Spring Calendar Requirements

70 Class Days

14 Weeks

5 Exam Days

Spring Break occurs after 44th day of classes

5 Exam Days

Spring Calendar

69 Class Days with Spring Break March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

70 Class Days with Spring Break April 10, 11, 12, 13 and Spring Holiday April 14

MTWT each meet 14 times; F meets 13 times with March Spring Break

Each weekday meets 14 times with Spring Break April 10, 11, 12, 13 and

Spring Holiday April 14

FICTITIOUS Summer 2006 Full Term

Classes Begin	May 22
Last Day to Add	May 26
Last Day to Drop Before "W"	May 26
Memorial Holiday	May 29
Last Day to Drop with "W"	July 7
Classes End	August 4
Final Exams	August 7
Grades Due	August 9 Noon
Commencement	August 12 or 13

- 54 Class Days (counting Memorial Day and Independence Day)
- MT have 10 meeting days (because of Memorial Day and Independence Day)
- WTHF have 11 meeting days
- 11 Weeks
- 3 hour classes would meet for 90 minutes two days per week
- 4 hour classes would meet for 90 minutes two days per week with a 90 minute lab in addition to lecture meeting time (either a third meeting day or 2nd 90 minute session on a day following one of the lectures)
- Standard 90 minute blocks would be a very easy way to schedule classes in an unconventional term and allow overlap with mini terms to allow students to take classes in a full term or mini term

FICTITIOUS Summer 2006 First Term

Classes Begin	May 22
Last Day to Add	May 24
Last Day to Drop Before "W"	May 24
Memorial Holiday	May 29
Classes End	June 28
Final Exams	June 28
Grades Due	July 5 Noon
Commencement	August 12 or 13

- 28 Class Days counting Memorial Day
- Classes meet 5 days per week
- 3 hour classes would meet for 80 minutes each day
- 4 hour classes would meet for 80 minutes each day with an additional two day per week 80 minute lab
- 3 hours classes could meet two days per week (MW or TTH) for 160 minutes beginning at 5:00p or 5:30p

FICTITIOUS Summer 2006 Second Term

Classes Begin	June 29
Last Day to Add	July 3
Last Day to Drop Before “W”	July 3
Independence Day Holiday	July 4
Classes End	August 7
Final Exams	August 7
Grades Due	August 9 Noon
Commencement	August 12 or 13

- 28 Class Days counting Independence Day
- Classes meet 5 days per week
- 3 hour classes would meet for 80 minutes each day
- 4 hour classes would meet for 80 minutes each day with an additional two day per week 80 minute lab
- 3 hours classes could meet two days per week (MW or TTH) for 160 minutes beginning at 5:00p or 5:30p

In full summer term and mini term classes would begin at 8:00a, 9:40a, 11:20a, 12:50p, 2:20p, and 5:00p or 5:30p.

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