



Academic Calendar Faculty Senate

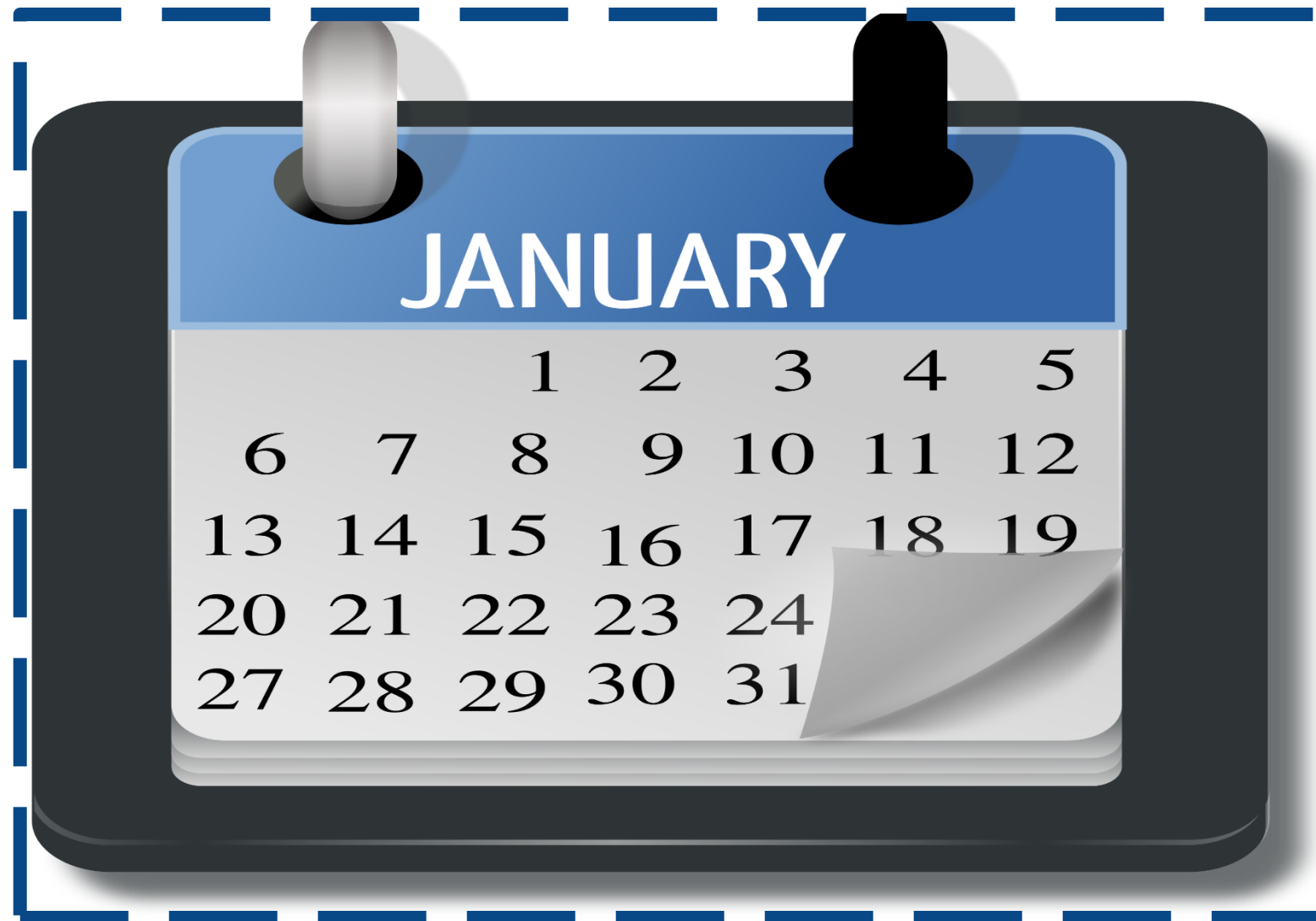
October 17, 2024

Academic Calendar Planning

Committee Recommendations

- Fall and Spring semesters
 - 17 calendar weeks becomes 16 calendar weeks
- Summer term
 - Retain 13 calendar weeks
- New January start date
 - Align with UTK, TBR, vast majority of LGIs
- Spring Break
 - Increase likelihood of HCS alignment
- Support Student Success
 - Allow time for students to appeal fall status before spring semester begins (suspension, SAP, etc.)
- Enhance Student Recruitment
 - Give transfer students time to be admitted in January
- Advance Total Organizational Health
 - 9-month faculty gain additional autonomy with later start in August and January

Timeline and Bridge to New Calendar



- Spring 2026 start pushed 1 week later
 - Begin January 12 instead of January 5, 2026
- Spring 2026 remains 17 calendar weeks
 - Final Exams end May 5, 2026
- Summer 2026 begins May 20, 2026
 - Summer ends August 11, 2026
 - Fall begins August 24, 2026

Known Calendar Creation

Concerns & Answers

- My clinical program can't fit into 16 calendar weeks.
 - Clinical programs already extend beyond semester boundaries. Financial Aid regulations afford special dispensation to clinical requirements.
- What about lab class meetings?
 - Faculty across the state already deliver comparable curriculum in a 16-week semester. All labs must meet in week 1.
- Why didn't we make this move last year?
 - UT system review caused us to pause our local discussions. We now have license to make change.





Next Steps And timeline

1

Use class
schedules
with 15-
minute
breaks
through
Spring 2026

2

Develop
class
meeting
times for 55
& 85 minute
blocks for
new 16-week
semester

3

Enjoy some
benefits for
student
recruitment
and success
in Spring
2026

4

Work with
WCTL to
support
faculty
course
planning on
new model

5

Fully Launch
new calendar
model in
August 2026



Questions?

Comments, Concerns