

For Faculty Council and Academic Senate discussions on the Spring Schedule

Recently, there have been questions about whether we will have a later start date for the spring term in order to allow two weeks after the New Year's events. This would allow students a chance to quarantine and/or watch their symptoms and therefore minimize the likelihood that they would be bringing infections to campus.

There will be no change in the dates of Commencement (May 6-8).

So, here are some options:

1. Start the semester as scheduled on January 11 in person. Trust students to be conscientious during the Christmas break.
2. Start the semester one week later on January 19 (Tuesday after MLK Day); cut five "free" days from spring term to make up for this loss of class time. Options for cutting: Presidents' Weekend (Feb 15-16), Spring Break (March 15-19), Easter Monday (April 5), and Reading Day (April 30).
3. Start the semester remotely on January 11 and have the students return to campus for in-person classes on January 19.
4. Have students return on January 11, move in to residence halls, and get tested, but open the first week remotely so that results of testing can be complete.

Below are some other options that could work with any of the scenarios above:

- A. Eliminate Presidents' Weekend break to reduce likelihood of travel away from campus. That reclaims a Monday and eliminates the unusual post-MLK Tuesday schedule (which is due to the loss of Mondays during the spring term). Choose one other mid-week break day during the term.
- B. Test after every extended break (Christmas, Presidents' Weekend, Spring Break, Easter) and require all classes to be remote until test results are in.
- C. Keep Spring Break as is (March 15-19) and require testing on return (and possibly remote instruction until results are in).
- D. Eliminate Spring Break (March 15-19) and distribute free days throughout the semester.
- E. Eliminate Spring Break (March 15-19) and blend with Easter Break (April 2-5). That, along with a reduction in the President's Weekend, could reduce the long breaks (and likely travel) to only one occasion during the semester (though it would be a long wait until we reached that point).