

Fall Break Resolution at IUPUI



**Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)
and
Undergraduate Student Government (USG)**

Indianapolis Faculty Council,
7 April 2009

Fall Break at IUPUI



Fall 2008:

Student concerns prompted the
USG (Undergraduate Student Government)
and AAC (Academic Affairs Committee)
to examine the fall calendar.

USG and AAC, with the help of the Registrar's Office,
concluded that the fall calendar could
easily include **two class-free days**,
allowing for a
Fall Break or Academic Recess.

Fall Break - Preamble



We the students and faculty at IUPUI feel that a **Fall Break** should be instituted into the academic calendar such that it will be recognized as an academic recess.

This recess will result in **no loss of teaching days**, as it calls for the fall semester to begin on a Monday rather than a Wednesday. This will allow for the first week of classes to be a full week to benefit students and instructors as well as gain an extra week of laboratory sessions in some departments.

In doing so, fall semester will still be in accordance with the established **University Academic Calendar guidelines**.

This academic recess shall fall on a consecutive **Monday and Tuesday** in mid-October following the first 8 weeks of the term and prior to the second 8 weeks of the term. It will also coincide with the National "Fall Alternative Break" movement seen as a time to serve others in a new community.

Introducing this Fall Break in October will reduce **high stress** at this predictable time in the semester for students, faculty, and staff, serving as a time to re-charge academically and prepare for the remainder of the semester.

Fall Break - Changes



	Current (Fall 2009):	Proposed Fall Break (2010)
First day of classes	Weds	Monday
Labor Day	Monday	Monday
Fall Break	---	Monday-Tues
Thanksgiving	Weds-Thurs-Fri	Weds-Thurs-Fri
Last day of classes	Monday	Monday

We would still have:

- =Equal number of meetings for each day of the week (M-Th)
- =Equal number of weeks in spring and fall semesters
- =15 weeks, plus 1 week for finals
- =2,250 minutes / 3 credit hour class

Fall Break - Benefits



USG and AAC believe the Fall Break will benefit students in the following ways:

Two class-free days will allow some students to catch up with **school work**, study for mid-semester **exams**, or work on **semester projects** so the mid-semester / end-of-semester stress is reduced.

Other students may choose to do **Fall Alternative Break (RISE)**

or even ... just relax.

(Read a book? Maybe the Common Theme!)

Plus, an extra week of labs in some courses.

Fall Break - Considerations



Considerations

1. Staff:
=> "Non-instruction days"
2. Our calendar will be different from the Bloomington Calendar
==> We are already different: IU-B does not follow the established University Academic Calendar Guidelines
http://registrar.indiana.edu/time_sensitive/offcalen4098.shtml
http://registrar.indiana.edu/time_sensitive/tentcalen.shtml
3. August considerations:
 - Summer Orientation / Bridge programs
 - TA / New faculty orientation
 - Faculty: Loss of Monday-Tuesday to prepare for start of classes!
 - Residence Hall move-in days
4. Athletics / Chartwells - comments?

Fall Break - Considerations



Concerns:

5. Student teaching / Clinical placements
 - => School of Education, School of Science, School of Nursing
 - => Loss of days available for field placements?

Recommendation from AAC:

This is not an issue that should derail the process. It is common for schools with a large number of clinical placements (ie: Nursing) and significant community partnerships to negotiate with the hospitals, schools, and other sites to determine when students will be at a facility.

As we build more "S" courses and "E" experiences into our curriculum, and do more creative teaching, service learning, and real-life projects that have an effect on the world now, we need to remain flexible. (S. H-D)

Fall Break - Considerations



Separate Calendars:

Professional Schools:

- Kelley School of Business keeps its own calendar, as does the Law School (with its own Fall Break), and the School of Medicine.
- There is no need to honor two calendars.
 - If a school is teaching under the Bloomington Calendar, then they follow the Bloomington calendar.
 - If a school is teaching under the IUPUI Calendar, then they follow the IUPUI calendar.

K-12 Schools

- Does not coincide; however, there is no "one" K-12 fall break in Indianapolis

Remember that the purpose of Fall Break is for our IUPUI students to have two class-free days to catch up.

Fall Break - Any other concerns?



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proposal can be subject to review at a later date when and if the IUPUI or IU system calendar is later reviewed and revised.

AAC: 2008-2009

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Sopanis Cho (Dentistry)
John Hassell (Business)
Sara Horton-Deutsch (Nursing)
Karen Janke (University Library)
Bruce Kitchens (Science)
Richard Emery Nickolson (Herron)
Teresa Bennett (Solution Center)
Linda Brothers (PETM)
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USG: 2008-2009

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Special Thanks to:

Mary Beth Myers, IUPUI Registrar
Becky Porter / APPC