

Proposal to Revise the Bloomington Campus Calendar
Draft: February 18, 2010

On November 23, 2009, Provost Karen Hanson convened the Bloomington Calendar Committee, and asked it to examine two specific questions: First, should the calendar at IUB be adjusted so we do not hold classes on Labor Day? Second, should there be a fall break and, if so, when? The Committee met twice, consulted with various constituencies, and reviewed earlier efforts to reform the Bloomington campus calendar (in particular, the 2007 report from the Task Force to Review the Academic Calendar at IUB).

We recommend:

- (1) Classes will not be held on Labor Day.

This change honors the American tradition of a Labor Day holiday, and brings IUB into conformity with most peer institutions.

- (2) Fall semester recess will occur on Monday and Tuesday of the seventh complete week of classes.

This change provides a break from instructional activities midway through the fall semester, offering an opportunity for students and faculty to catch a breather during the long run from late August to Thanksgiving. Many peer institutions (including Purdue) have a mid-October fall break. The Monday/Tuesday break balances the Wednesday/Thursday/Friday break for Thanksgiving Recess. Introduction of this new fall recess will require faculty and students to reaffirm their commitment to treat Monday/Tuesday of Thanksgiving Week as bona fide instructional days.

- (3) Fall semester classes will begin on Wednesday of the week prior to the present first day of classes.

In conjunction with the two above changes, this change restores the present 72 class days in the fall semester. This proposal overall will not reduce instructional contact time. For most students, move-in at the residence halls will begin during the weekend immediately before the first day of classes. Many fall semester orientation activities (testing, advising) will occur on Monday/Tuesday prior to the Wednesday first day of classes. This truncation of the orientation period reduces opportunities for undesirable student activities between move-in and the start of classes.

- (4) The summer session will consist of three four-week instructional modules.

This change introduces greater flexibility for scheduling summer session classes, and increases the desirability of summer instruction for students and faculty. Classes in the first summer module will begin on the present first day of classes for the six-week session; there will be no breaks between summer session modules. All summer courses will be scheduled to begin on the first day of any of the three modules. Their duration may range from two to twelve weeks. This change will introduce a longer hiatus between the end of summer sessions and the start of fall orientation activities (from a one week break to three weeks). This extended period will allow greater opportunities to perform maintenance and repairs on instructional facilities, and allow the campus to be used for a variety of other activities without competition from regular classroom instruction (e.g., workshops on teaching for AIs and faculty; welcome for international, transfer and graduate students; Intensive Freshman Seminars; Marching Hundred practices; &c.) .

If approved by the Bloomington Faculty Council and by campus administrators during the spring semester 2010, the new calendar could take effect in the fall semester 2011.

Members of the Bloomington Campus Calendar Committee:

Michael Baker, CWA Representative
Robert Becker, College of Arts and Sciences
Cindy Curvin Boyd, BPC Representative
Nick Clark, Graduate and Professional Students Organization
Pat Connor, Residential Programs and Services
Roland Cote, Registrar
Thomas F. Gieryn, Vice Provost for Faculty & Academic Affairs [chair]
Abby Kaericher, IU Student Association
Jennifer Laherty, IU Libraries
Bradley Levinson, School of Education
Mary Lee Luskin, Criminal Justice
Gene O'Brien, Jacobs School of Music
Gwendolyn Pershing, IU Libraries
Mary Popp, IU Libraries
Diane Reilly, Fine Arts
Sonya Stephens, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Tom Swafford, Space Management