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1999-2000 Academic Calendar

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Bleicken, Linda, "1999-2000 Academic Calendar" (1998). *Faculty Senate Index*. 339.
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Approved by the Senate: 12/2/1998

Not Approved by the Senate:

Approved by the President:

Not Approved by the President:

1999-2000 Academic Calendar

Minutes: 12/2/1998: Dr. Linda Bleicken (Chair, Calendar Committee) commented on the wish from the faculty that there be a longer break between the end of Fall Semester and the beginning of Spring Semester. She indicated that the committee has asked for an exception to the latest starting date from the Regents, but have not yet heard back yet. Dr. Carter said that he came away from a conversation with Vice Chancellor Fullerton, who is in charge of approving the calendars for all the institutions, feeling comfortable that he would approve that request. Dr. Carter believed that the request will be approved, and suggested that we make that assumption and proceed with a calendar that makes that assumption, if that is this body's desire. He indicated that Fall Semester will be as we have experienced it this Fall with roughly the same approach, and Spring Semester will be starting a week later, so that we will have a longer break between the two semesters. Spring Semester would end with graduation on the weekend of May 13th and 14th. Dr. Janie Wilson (CLASS) asked why we have five Summer sessions.

Dr. Linda Bleicken reviewed the reasons that were provided by Dr. Carl Gooding (COBA) at the October 20 Faculty Senate meeting (see minutes). These reasons included the following: (1) There are two long sessions, the first long session being for most courses; (2) the second long session is for some College of Education Students; (3) the other three short terms are for approved special needs courses only; and (4) the plan was designed for flexibility.

Dr. Carter also added that the key is providing flexibility and options. Dr. Jim Solomon (COST) stated that the Calendar Committee has not approved the 1999-2000 summer calendar. He said it has been tabled. Dr. Clara Krug expressed concern about whether the faculty ever received a rationale for the proposed calendar.

Dr. Marc Cyr (CLASS) emphasized that the rationale is needed. He indicated that one thing that never really came clear was why we have this very confusing mosaic of five terms. He said that it's just flat out confusing. He asked whether we can publish for Fall/Spring, and publish a separate calendar for summer. Dr. Carter responded that it was possible. He said that he thinks it may have a negative impact on summer enrollment. Dr. Marc Cyr wondered what the impact the confusing calendar might have

on summer enrollment. Dr. Carter said that he did not disagree with that possibility as well.

Dr. John Brown (COBA) asked whether any nine-month faculty members are compelled to teach in summer. Dr. Richard Rogers said that the answer to that may be yes. He explained that there are curricula that have been approved by faculty that require certain courses to be offered in the summer and there may only be one or two faculty in a department qualified to teach that course. Some faculty may be committed to teaching during the summer.

Ms. Pam Watkins (COST) spoke in favor of having flexibility during the summer. Dr. Carter stated that a document could be prepared which would speak to the rationale issue. He said that it could be distributed and placed on the web.

Dr. Arnie Cooper (Dean, COE) suggested that we should not assume that people in the community that will take our courses do not understand the flexibility. He suggested that the notion that you have a lot of these kinds of sessions is not something that was hatched in Statesboro, and that it is part of a national movement to be able to provide lots of opportunities. Dr. Carter suggested we go back to the original committee that developed the proposal, and ask them for a written rationale, that will be distributed. He said that we will also make available members of that committee and/or others who have worked closely with them to come to either faculty forums at the college-level, if that is desired, or at the departmental level.

Dr. Janie Wilson suggested that we get input from a larger population of students than those in the recent COE survey. Mr. Russell Keen (SGA President) said that the students can have an open forum on this issue. Dr. Anne Pierce (COST) suggested that we carefully consider the summer formats relative to the questions asked on the various polls. Dr. Clara Krug motioned to approve the Fall 1999 and Spring 2000 calendar. The motion was seconded. After a discussion involving lab meeting times, a possible Monday/Tuesday Fall break, starting class on Fridays, Regent constraints, student move-in day, student life involvement, and Freshman Convocation, the motion was approved. A date will be established to complete the information/discussion process, and return the issue to the Calendar Committee who will propose a Summer 2000 calendar to the Faculty Senate at a called meeting of the Senate in February, 1999.