




MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	November 20, 2020
FROM	Stephen Spector Chair, Senate Calendar Committee		
RE:	Revision to Academic Dates 2020/2021		

At its meeting of November 20, 2020, the Calendar Committee reviewed the attached request for revision of the previously approved schedule for spring 2021 and summer 2021.

The Calendar Committee approves and recommends to Senate the following:

Motion 1:

"That Senate approve that the first day of classes for the Spring 2021 term be revised from Tuesday, January 5 to Monday, January 11 and that the first day of classes for the Summer 2021 term be revised from Monday, May 10 to Monday, May 17."

Motion 2:

"That Senate approve the revised Spring 2021 calendar."

Motion 3:

"That Senate approve that the number of teaching days in Summer 2021 term be reduced from 63 days to 61 days."

Motion 4:

"That Senate approve the revised Summer 2021 calendar."



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Calendar Committee Date November 20, 2020
FROM Rummana Khan Hemani
Vice Provost, Students and International
Wade Parkhouse
Associate Vice President, Academic
RE: Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 - Delayed Start of Classes

Motions:

Motion 1: Approve and recommend to Senate that the first day of classes for the Spring 2021 term be revised from Tuesday, January 5 to Monday, January 11 and that the first day of classes for the Summer 2021 term be revised from Monday, May 10 to Monday, May 17.

Motion 2: Approve and recommend to Senate the revised Spring 2021 calendar.

Motion 3: Approve and recommend to Senate that teaching days in Summer 2021 term are reduced from 63 days to 61 days.

Motion 4: Approve and recommend to Senate the revised Summer 2021 calendar.

Overview and Background

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on teaching and learning, instructors and students have experienced unprecedented challenges. With the shift to remote learning, instructors have been required to fully pivot how they teach. This includes, incorporating new technology, adapting curriculum, teaching, and assessment practices, and managing online classroom dynamics. As a result, it is important that instructors have adequate time to prepare for their courses to ensure the quality of education at SFU remains strong.

In addition, due to the late start of the Fall 2020 term, end-of-term administrative processes have been pushed back to late December. Following the release of Fall term grades and academic standing, students will have little lead time to seek advising, change classes, etc. in advance of the start of the Spring term.

Decision

To address the above concerns, it is recommended that the first day of classes for Spring 2021 be moved from Tuesday, January 5 to Monday, January 11 and Summer 2021 classes start on Monday, May 17 instead of Monday, May 10. This will provide for an additional four business days at the start of the Spring term for administrative process and supports, such as academic advising, before classes begin. In order to accommodate this shift, the Spring term exam period will be shortened from 14 to 12 days, which is not an issue given the implementation of new exam software in the Registrar’s Office. This shift results in only a one-day loss for staff to process final grade information.

By delaying the first day of classes for Summer 2021, this again allows instructors adequate time to prepare for Summer term instruction. To accommodate the later start date of May 17 and provide an adequate break and preparation time for the Fall 2021 term, we also recommend reducing the number of teaching days during the Summer term from 63 to 61. This year, UBC has 61 teaching days in the first term of their winter session and will have 62 in the second term. UVIC has 59 teaching days in the first term of their winter session and will have 59 teaching days in the second term. It is, therefore, not uncommon for post-secondary institutions to vary teaching days throughout the year and have less than 63, as is the current standard at SFU.

Proposed Dates:

Details	Original Date(s)	Revised Date(s)
Spring term class start	Tuesday, January 5	Monday, January 11
Spring term class end	Monday, April 12	Friday, April 16
Spring term exam period	Wednesday, April 14 to Monday, April 26	Saturday, April 17 to Wednesday, April 28
Summer term class start	Monday, May 10	Monday, May 17
Summer term class end	Monday, August 9	Thursday, August 12
Summer term exam period	Wednesday, August 11 to Friday, August 20	Friday, August 13 to Tuesday, August 24

Academic Calendar Principles

<i>Principles</i>	Senate Reference
1. Each semester has 63 teaching days. (Senate paper 03-56)	S.03-56
2. Exams may be scheduled on Sunday if required. (Senate paper 05-127)	S.05-127
3. Exams should be avoided on the Saturday and Sunday of the Easter weekend. (Senate paper 14-102a)	S.14-102a
4. There is a weeklong reading break in February of each year to correspond with the family day holiday. (Senate paper 08-70)	S.08-70
5. All instructors submit grades on-line by the deadline date to allow for quicker end-of-term evaluations.	
6. Orientation for new students is a vital component for student retention, development and creating a positive university experience.	* Proposed change for Fall 2020 - 2-year pilot

Proposed 2021 Academic Calendar

2021

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
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July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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29	30	31				

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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26	27	28	29	30		

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Welcome Day
- First day of class
- Last day of class
- Exam period
- Holiday
- Reading Break
- Convocation