Meeting of the Academic Senate Executive Committee  
Tuesday, May 23, 2017  
01-409, 3:10 to 5:00pm

I. Minutes: none.

II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s):

III. Reports:
A. Academic Senate Chair:
B. President’s Office:
C. Provost:
D. Statewide Senate:
E. CFA:
F. ASI:

IV. Business Item(s):
A. [TIME CERTAIN 3:10] Resolution on Graduate Blended Program Policies: Richard Savage, Dean of Graduate Education (pp. 2-10).
B. Approval of Assigned Time for Academic Senate Officers and Committee Chairs: (p. 11).
C. Resolution on Defining Student Success: Sean Hurley, Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee Chair (p. 12).

V. Discussion Item:
Follow-up discussion of Academic Calendar Survey by Gary Laver, Academic Senate Chair (pp. 13-25).

VI. Adjournment:
WHEREAS, Coded Memo AA-2012-01 establishes policies pertaining to CSU graduate degree programs offering simultaneous matriculation or Blended Bachelor's and Master's degree programs; and

WHEREAS, AA-2012-01 provides that issues not addressed in the memorandum shall be determined at the campus level; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the blended program (AA-2012-01) is to provide an accelerated pathway from a bachelor's to a master's degree and to enhance the undergraduate learning experience; and

WHEREAS, Under Title V, a minimum of 225 total units are required (Bachelor's 180 + Master's 45) for receiving a combined (blended) degree; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate approve the attached Policy on Blended Programs.
POLICY ON BLENDED PROGRAMS

ADMISSION to BLENDED PROGRAM

Students may be admitted to a blended program in their third or fourth year of undergraduate study. Admission recommendation is determined at the program level with final approval from the Graduate Education Dean. The student must submit an Admission to Blended Program Approval form. The specific requirements for admission are set by the program with approval by the Graduate Education Office and Office of the Registrar. Once accepted, students may take graduate-level courses towards master's degree requirements, as their schedules permit, provided they have the course prerequisites.

TRANSITION to GRADUATE STANDING

Students admitted to the blended program will maintain their undergraduate status until they have reached a minimum of 180 or a maximum of 196 degree applicable units towards their undergraduate degree. By the end of the first academic term in which the student has earned the appropriate degree applicable units, the student must file a post-baccalaureate change of degree objective (PBCO) form and once processed will transition to graduate status and incur the appropriate increase in tuition fees. Students must be at graduate status for a minimum of two quarters before degree completion.

DOUBLE COUNTING UNITS

A student may apply any units that are in excess of the 180 undergraduate degree minimum requirements towards both their undergraduate and graduate degree requirements, up to a maximum of 9 units (double counted units). However, neither senior project nor master's thesis/project units can be double counted.

SENIOR PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Students in a blended program must complete all undergraduate requirements, including senior project requirements as detailed in the Cal Poly Catalog, along with their graduate master's degree culminating event requirements as detailed in the Cal Poly Catalog. A student can align the objectives of their senior project with the objectives of their thesis or project, if a thesis or project is the approved culminating event for the program. A thesis or project does not satisfy, replace or substitute for the undergraduate senior project requirement. Senior project requirements must be completed before a student begins their thesis or project requirements. Exceptions can be granted on an individual student basis and require the approval of the college dean or designee that is responsible for the graduate program.
Blended Programs (background)

Current Approved Programs

- Table 1 contains paired programs approved by Cal Poly (Fall 2016)

Policies

- Coded memorandum from CO (AA-2012-01, January 12, 2012)
  - Section 1 – “purpose of providing an accelerated pathway to a master’s degree and to enhance the undergraduate learning experience.”
  - Memorandum establishes system wide minimum processes and policies, issues not addressed in this memorandum shall be determined at the campus level.

Issues

- GradEd does not believe the memorandum supports the idea that completing a thesis satisfies, replaces or substitutes for the undergraduate requirement of a senior/capstone experience.
- The senior project is a cornerstone of the Cal Poly “Learn by Doing” experience and is required for all Cal Poly students receiving a baccalaureate degree. It integrates theory and application from across the student’s undergraduate educational experiences. Clearly, the Senior Project experience is something that parents, students and employers expect to be part of any Cal Poly’s bachelor degree experience.

Questions

- What about other culminating events: projects or exams, do they satisfy the senior project requirement?
- The memorandum (AA-2012-01) does specify in section 8.0 that blended students who choose to not complete their master’s degree can petition for and receive their bachelor’s degree without any additional costs. How can they receive their bachelor’s degree at no additional costs if they have not taken the required senior project requirements?
- The Cal Poly Academic Programs website describes one of the advantages of blended programs is to “provide a meaningful capstone experience that in most cases integrates the senior project with the graduate thesis/project”. Many blended programs have correctly interpreted “integrates the senior project with the graduate thesis/project” to mean that a student can integrate the foundational goals and learning outcomes of both experiences. For example, a student can investigate a topic to the level necessary to demonstrate that they have achieved their senior project learning outcomes and then extend their study of the topic to the level necessary to demonstrate the educational learning outcomes required for their master’s degree culminating experience. However, some programs have incorrectly interpreted this “integration” to mean that a master’s thesis or project replaces a senior project or substitutes for a senior project. Please be sure to clearly define the learning outcomes for both experiences.
(senior project and master's culminating event) in the new Academic Catalog 17-19 and ensure that students are in compliance with both of these important components of their educational experience at Cal Poly.

- Does CLOs from thesis duplicate CLOs from senior project requirements?
- What happens when a student does not complete their thesis.....but has all the UG units (tech electives were substituted for senior project)....so they get bachelor's from CP without a senior project?
- Some blended programs want to accepted students that do not have an undergraduate degree in their major. Do students from these paired programs get a pass on doing a senior project?
- This same argument of a thesis substituting or replacing a senior project could be applied to upper class courses....why take a lower class course, you can just learn what you need when you take the upper class course?
- ABET accreditation requires a senior or capstone experience; this is not in compliance with our accreditation standards?

Table 1

Cal Poly Graduate Programs
Approved Blended Paired Programs
2/20/2017

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January 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs

FROM: Ephraim P. Smith
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: “Blended” or “4 + 1” Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree Programs

This coded memorandum establishes systemwide minimum processes and policies pertaining to CSU undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered to students through simultaneous matriculation. Combinations that blend degree and credential programs are excluded, and issues not addressed in this memorandum shall be determined at the campus level.

Campuses are not required to offer blended programs, and the standards included herein are minimum requirements. Campuses wishing to offer blended bachelor’s and master’s programs will need to be aware that timely coordination is required between the academic department and the campus registrar’s office to ensure accurate recording of the student’s transition from undergraduate to graduate status. This will have direct consequences for student fee assessment and financial aid eligibility, as types of aid and award amounts may vary according to the student’s official academic objective. Appropriate state funding to the campus will also depend on accurate recording of student transition in blended programs.

1. Authorization to Implement Blended Programs
   The president or designee is authorized to implement programs blending existing baccalaureate and master’s degree programs in the same support mode and for the purposes of providing an accelerated pathway to a master’s degree, and to enhance the undergraduate learning experience. Campuses shall establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate academic rigor and quality.
1.1 Authority to grant postbaccalaureate and graduate special-action admission is provided under Title 5 section 41001:

An applicant who does not qualify for admission under the provisions of subdivisions (a) or (b), or both such subdivisions, of Section 41000, may be admitted by special action if on the basis of acceptable evidence the applicant is judged by appropriate campus authority to possess sufficient academic, professional and other potential pertinent to the applicant's educational objectives to merit such action.

1.2 Blended programs must meet all applicable CSU policies and state and federal laws.

2. Reporting

2.1 Blended bachelor's and master's degree programs will continue to use the existing CSU degree program codes (formerly “HEGIS”) and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes for their component undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Unlike concurrent degree programs, new CSU degree codes will not be assigned for the blended bachelor's and master's programs.

2.2 To ensure that enrollments are reported accurately, the campus is required to notify Academic Programs and Policy in the Chancellor's Office, signaling an intention to implement the planned blended program. The resultant Chancellor's Office software edits will allow accurate reporting in the CSU Enrollment Reporting System (ERS), without receiving an “error” message.

2.3 While students in regular, non-blended, baccalaureate and graduate programs have a degree objective code that ranges from digits “2” to “7,” students in blended programs have only the digit “9” as their degree objective code.

2.4 When a blended-program student has earned at least 120 semester/180 quarter units toward program completion, the campus will change the student level code to “5,” signifying graduate standing. As these students have yet to attain either a baccalaureate or master's degree, their degree held code will remain as either “0” or “1.” The term FTE calculation for these students will be: 12 units equals one FTES.

3. Application to Blended Programs

3.1 A student must apply to the blended program while in undergraduate status and will be admitted as an undergraduate to the bachelor's component of the blended program.

3.2 Students shall not be required to apply formally for graduate admission.
4. Enrollment and Enrollment Status
   4.1 While in undergraduate status, a student in a blended program will take graduate-level courses required for the master’s degree.

   4.2 At the end of the first academic term in which blended-program students have earned at least 120 semester/180 quarter units (the minimum required for the regular baccalaureate major degree program), the campus will change the student-level codes to “5,” signifying graduate degree objective status.

   4.3 Units considered toward meeting this degree-objective status threshold may include either undergraduate or graduate, and shall include only those units that count toward satisfying either the bachelor’s or master’s requirements in the blended program.

   4.4 To ensure proper awarding of degree credit, all lower-division work (including lower-division general education courses and American Institutions courses) shall be completed prior to changing to graduate degree objective status.

5. International (F-1 Visa Holder) Students
   A letter must be submitted to the appropriate office on campus to indicate the change of degree status for international students. This requirement is related to the students’ need to maintain full-time status, as the number of units required for full-time status is different at the undergraduate level and graduate level.

6. Tuition Fees
   6.1 A student will be assessed the undergraduate State University Tuition Fee only during the time in which the blended-program student has earned fewer than 120 semester/180 quarter units applicable to the blended bachelor’s and master’s degree programs.

   6.2 When the degree-objective status is changed to “graduate,” the student will be assessed the graduate student fee, and may continue to take upper-division undergraduate courses.

   6.3 Students in a master’s degree program that has been authorized to assess the higher graduate professional degree (“MBA Fee”) will only be charged that tuition fee for courses required to complete the fee-approved master’s degree program.

7. Minimum Requirements for Completion of Blended Programs
   A minimum of 150 semester units (120 + 30) or 225 quarter units (BS 180 + MS 45) are required in blended programs.
8. Provision for Completing the Baccalaureate Portion Only
If a student in a blended program opts not to complete the master’s program but does complete the undergraduate degree requirements, undergraduate matriculation shall be re-opened in order to grant the baccalaureate degree. There shall be no related cost to the student nor refund of previous graduate fees paid.

9. Awarding of Degrees
Both degrees may be awarded during the same term and at a single graduation ceremony, as authorized by Executive Order 702 (http://www.calstate.edu/EO/EO-971.html). Students are evaluated for Latin honors based on the first 120 semester units or 180 quarter units (i.e. the time period of undergraduate degree objective), regardless of the number of graduate courses taken prior to the transition to graduate status.

For questions regarding Enrollment Reporting System coding, please contact Dr. Philip Garcia at (562) 951-4764 or pgarcia@calstate.edu. Admission questions and Common Management System issues may be directed to Mr. Eric Forbes at (562) 951-4744 or eforbes@calstate.edu. Financial aid questions should be addressed to Mr. Dean Kulju at (562) 951-4737 or dkulju@calstate.edu. Dr. Christine Mallon may be reached at (562) 951-4672 or cmallon@calstate.edu to answer questions related to curriculum.

ES/elm
c: Dr. Ron Vogel, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
   Dr. James Postma, Chair, Academic Senate, CSU
   Dr. Philip Garcia, Senior Director, Analytic Studies
   Mr. Eric Forbes, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Support
   Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Resources
   Dr. Christine Mallon, State University Dean, Academic Programs and Policy
   Dr. Beverly Young, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Teacher Education and Public School Programs
   Campus Academic Senate Chairs
   Associate Provosts/Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
   Deans, Graduate Studies
   Directors, Admission and Records
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Up to 82.5 WTUs per year

* For F2015 & W2016/4 WTUs for Machamer S2016

05.17.17 (pp)
WHEREAS, In May 2014, President Armstrong released his vision for the campus that was based on the four foundational and guiding principles of Learn by Doing, Student Success, Excellence Through Continuous Improvement, and Comprehensive Polytechnic; and

WHEREAS, In the 2016-2017 Academic Year, President Armstrong provided a draft University Strategic Plan for the campus to review and provide feedback; and

WHEREAS, The Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee has reviewed, discussed, and debated the preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Budget and Long-Range Planning Committees has come to the conclusion that the main cornerstone for this plan is Student Success; and

WHEREAS, There is no formal official campus definition of Student Success; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for the Faculty to provide an overarching definition of Student Success in order to provide a strong foundation for the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee has solicited feedback from administrators, faculty, and students regarding the definition of Student Success; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate adopt the following definition for Student Success drafted by the Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee:

"Student Success is the development of a foundational knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to achieve a student's potential in academic, civic, career, intellectual, and social pursuits", and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate call upon President Armstrong to charge all administrative units on campus to develop an operational plan based on their goals and objectives that revolve around and help facilitate the aforementioned definition of Student Success, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate call upon the University to reduce unnecessary barriers that will allow students to graduate in a timely fashion while allowing students to embody this adopted definition of Student Success.

Proposed by: Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee
Date: May 25, 2017
Q1 What's your first impression of the possibility of starting fall quarter early in September so that it would end before Thanksgiving?

Answer Choices
- Sounds interesting
- I would like to know more...
- Not in favor

Answered 453, Skipped 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>Responses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sounds interesting</td>
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<td>I would like to know more...</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>24.28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not in favor</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>26.05%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>453</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Q2 If fall quarter were to end before Thanksgiving, would you be open to the possibility of an early December intersession?

Answer Choices

- Sounds interesting
- I would like to know more...
- Not in favor

Responses

- Sounds interesting: 22.08% (100 responses)
- I would like to know more details: 40.84% (185 responses)
- Not in favor: 37.09% (168 responses)
- Total: 453
Academic Calendar - Winter 2017

Q3 - What would you do with your December if the quarter ended before Thanksgiving?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Travel/Vacation</td>
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<td>Prepare for Next Quarter/Winter</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
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<td>Time With/Visit Family/Kids</td>
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<td>Personal/Other Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest/Relax/Recover</td>
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<td>Conference/Retreat</td>
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<td>Intersession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Development/Preparation</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enjoy Holidays</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Activities</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resentful</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Time</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2</td>
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Answered question 138.5% 360
Skipped question 35.8% 93
Open comments:

1. I am not originally from this country and my own school's schedule has inspired the following suggestion: End Fall quarter before Thanksgiving. Then start Winter quarter at the beginning of December (~3 weeks), giving 1 week (maybe plus two more days or so) for the Holiday/New Year's break. Then make Spring break two weeks (right now with grades due and prepping classes Spring break is non-existent for faculty). Then finish Spring quarter 1-2 weeks earlier. That way our students don't face the limitations they do now for summer research programs at semester schools that often start while Cal Poly is still in session. That way our summer is still almost as long as it was, but we have breaks of ~ two weeks between each term.

2. I've never been in favor of having a full week off for Thanksgiving. But having the quarter ends before that week seems better than coming back for just one week+finals.

3. What is the REAL motivation behind this?

4. A 3-to-4-week intersession during that period would be much too short to deliver quality content, in my opinion.

5. It is strange to begin the quarter on a Thursday, but a full week off for Thanksgiving is very welcome.

6. all of this is worth looking at...

7. Sept is so nice to have off -- don't want a shorter summer!!!!

8. I enthusiastically endorse a winter break from before Thanksgiving to the New Year. The University of Denver, where I previously taught for 10 years, has this kind of break with great success. It also has winter intersessions Cal Poly may be interested in investigating. During my time at the University of Denver, professors relished those long breaks. We worked on research projects, revamped classes, traveled to see friends/family, and came back re-energized. The long break enhanced my teaching and reinvigorated me for the two quarters to follow.

9. The origin of the quarter system is the natural world. Why do we want to create a semester schedule for Fall Quarter? I see little value in starting right after Labor Day and ending before December. I guess this is one way to get the faculty conditioned to accept a semester system some time in the future. Why try to fix something that isn't broken? I found the whole week of Thanksgiving off to be very disruptive. Students wanted to leave before hand and come back well afterwards. Fall Quarter is no more tiring than any other quarter, so why not allow it to have a 11 week course of time? Taking the entire month of December off will make it more difficult to teach the live plant aspects of Winter Quarter as students and staff will not want to be around to care for or prepare for these activities. A whole month off is not good for those of us in agriculture who deal with plants and animals who are alive and need regular care. We cannot just shut down the place.

10. Starting earlier matches up well with the local school schedule. I have to be in town in late august either way.

11. Please do not shorten summer by ending fall quarter before Thanksgiving. Summer is the only extended time for faculty to do research and writing over a longer, uninterrupted period. Please do not take this extended summer time away, if you want to foster the teacher-scholar model at Cal Poly.

12. My own undergraduate college, Knox College (in Galesburg, IL) had "trimesters", and the Fall term ended before Thanksgiving, and the winter term began shortly after New Years. This was especially helpful to me as I was an out of state student without much money, so I was not faced with the difficult decision of whether to travel home for just Thanksgiving.

13. Change is difficult for people. I appreciate the opportunity to explore alternatives. We've been locked in so long to traditional ways and thinking, and many people do not recognize that we must adapt to meet current needs and interests of our clientele.

14. I like the week off for Thanksgiving - that was wonderful for students to get a chance to go home without missing classes.

15. The Thursday start to Fall quarter is awkward. Students' heads are not fully in the game. I'd like to see us go back to a Monday start. A Monday start offers a clean break between WOW or summer break and the start of fall quarter. A Thursday start feels like a 2-day break from WOW / summer break.
This would be a HUGE hindrance for students wanting to do summer internships or research on campus. May REU are 10-12 weeks long. In COSAM much of the student research is done during the summer and decreasing that window will strongly hinder progress in projects. The time in December would not be useful for anyone. It is too short for students to be able to get employment or make much progress on research projects.

I was fine with the old Fall calendar. It was great having a full week at Thanksgiving, but it made it hard to come back for classes afterwards for just two weeks. However, an upside is that students have time to work on projects and papers. I very, very strongly favor a winter calendar that starts AFTER Jan. 5-6. Do not like late end of Fall quarter AT ALL. Not enough time to prep for holidays, and break feels short. Do prefer start after Labor Day, though.

I'm really pleased when Cal Poly considers things that are a bit non-traditional, I would love to see more thinking like this to take a look at a LOT of the things we do that we don't necessarily need to do...

The shortened summer will mean co-ops/internships get shortened. Summer school gets rough for both students and faculty. I believe that we should keep the long summer.

We could model Dec activities after MIT's IAP. At MIT, the month of January is an independent activity period - it allows students and faculty to explore interests beyond standard curriculum, or take short intensive course. http://web.mit.edu/iap/

I would think that this would allow for inter-quarter accelerated pace classes during the 3 weeks following Thanksgiving. This could be especially helpful for students who fail a class in Fall term (for example, Calc 1) who want to stay on track for their degree.

Please don't start the quarter on a Thursday

I would be more interested in a longer intersession break between winter and spring.

An early start would be very beneficial to our teacher credential programs because the start of the term would be closer to the start of K-12 schools, and it our field work it is very advantageous for our candidates to experience how K-12 teachers start the school year. With the late start that Cal Poly has had by comparison, we have tried to work out options for candidates so that they have this opportunity, but it has been inconsistent and it creates challenges for us to employ field supervisors outside of the academic year. Thus, we would prefer an earlier start to consistently have a beneficial circumstance for our candidates.

Keep the 1-week Thanksgiving - this is an excellent change. The other proposal makes no sense to me.

Seems like an underhanded way of transitioning to semesters. The problem for students is that it shortens their summer internships.

If the quarter started in the beginning of September, we would need to end earlier in June or May because of summer internships. If it gets cut too close, a lot of people would not be able to work the minimum required amount of time for most internships.

Too long a break can make it hard to get back up to speed in January.

sounds intriguing

If the quarter were to start early, I would have less time with my family over the summer, which I am not in favor of. Also, for those students without a home to go back to, it would make it more difficult for them to find housing over such a long winter break.

My concern is the start of winter quarter. If we have an early fall, I imagine the likelihood of starting the winter quarter the second week of January would become less likely. As I regularly attend a conference that takes place the first week of January, I am much more in favor of having that first week be part of our winter break.

I'd rather have a 2 week break between winter and spring than have extra time off between fall and winter.

I like the idea. Summer break drags on. The only benefit I see in the later start is September tends to be hot in SLO.

Grouping holidays into a longer break opens up possibilities for activities that require extended time, such as some focused research or course revising.

I like the way our fall begins a bit late as I will have time for the preparation of the new quarter after getting back from summer.

I assume an early December intersession would mean the entire month of December, including the week between Christmas and New Years. Having a longer winter break would mean more opportunities to go abroad on student trips and a greater distribution of research advancement across the year.
I would hope that my personal preference as a professor is not nearly as important as how it affects our student's winter and spring quarters. I never heard any faculty asking for changes to fall quarter but have heard plenty wishing winter will affect learning retention. Honestly, I can think of no advantage to this calendar except for me personally. I would be even shorter, putting our students at a further disadvantage having a long break between fall and the end of winter quarter.

Encouragement for the winter quarter.

We have other problems with our academic calendar. Why must winter quarter be so much shorter than fall? Those who teach the same courses across all three terms have to make significant changes to accommodate for three different term lengths. Why can't we find a way to make the three terms closer if not the same length in instructional days? I understand that the President's Day and MLK Day significantly affect scheduling in winter, and the California holiday of Cesar Chavez Day would mess with final exam week. But if we can somehow work with these constraints to normalize the length of the terms to aid class design, that would have the beneficial effect of allowing an earlier end of fall without moving the start back too early into summer. That change may well warm me up to the early fall quarter.

I strongly suggest you work to offer a 2 week spring break rather than giving us the month of December off.
- Would this also move forward the start dates of the Winter and Spring quarters? - My observation is that students have been losing out on summer internships due to the current structure of our academic year. Some companies had already filled their summer internship slots by the time they came to recruit at Cal Poly because our academic year starts so late. For summer internship programs with fixed start and end dates that often correlate to the semester calendar, Cal Poly students often either have to take a shortened internship (with a rushed internship experience and correspondingly less pay) or leave before the end of the school year and miss some classes in order to start the internship on time. Neither of these are good options for the students.

Summer break is a key period for research, attending conferences and other activities that are vital for academic satisfaction. Under the proposed schedule changes, summer break would be even shorter than semester schools.

If you do indeed chose the earlier start, do not implement this September. Plans already in place for travel and other projects.

I would be concerned about this cutting into internships, an important part of our students educational process.

The one problem starting earlier is the lack of air conditioned classrooms. It can be hot in the older buildings. This year one day was so hot I had to take the class outside as neither the students nor I could concentrate in the heat.

As much as I'm intrigued by this option, I wonder if the outcome will be to make summer too short. A downside of the quarter system is that our students aren't available until mid-June - which is too late for students trying to get field technician and research positions (these start dates are usually based on semester-system calendar, so they start in late May). I wish we got out mid-May, and had the option for a "May-mester" session (2-3 weeks). But that may not be possible on the quarter system. So the proposed intersession here might be a decent alternative. We won't know until we try it...

Starting classes on a Thursday created an irregular schedule of lectures and labs out of sync such that portions of the class were always "behind" others each week.

Please keep it the way it is. However, give Counseling Staff 5 days during spring break. We don't have to work on grades & we work so hard that we deserve a full spring break off.

Proofread your survey questions for misspellings before sending them out.

Syncing research and logistics with semester based peers and students will be easier.

As a teacher of a class that spans two quarters and results in a public performance, this idea is something I am very much against. The amount of time between Fall and Winter quarter would be too great and much slippage mentally and physically would occur necessitating a complete restructuring of my courses.

This proposed calendar makes very little pedagogical sense. You would create an academic year that had 23 weeks of education followed by 9 weeks off, 11 weeks on and 9 weeks off. Everything that I have read about student retention of reading, writing and math skills over the summer breaks shows that it's detrimental. This proposed calendar would in essence create two educational voids. So much for enhancing student success at this campus. I am sure that others will point out the negative effects of this calendar on both co-ops and internships. The few positives would be for the football team [even that is a maybe] who could play early season games at home. The other group that would benefit is faculty that would teach a three week course to improve their holiday spending.

Any talk about possibly moving to semesters?

Thanksgiving to beyond New Year's day sounds too long to me. But cramming a "winter study" in that time sounds worse than the current calendar. I liked this year's calendar just fine.

Not exactly sure what is meant by the second question with an "intersession." What is an intersession?

Bad idea!

The week of Thanksgiving is an awkward time to take a full week off, being so near the end of the quarter. Seeing as Winter and Spring quarters typically see no more than the occasional 3 day weekend, 9 straight days off was fairly disruptive to the Fall quarter.

Not having the thanksgiving gap just before finals would be great - if the quarter would end before Thanksgiving, students could concentrate better on their finals.

I think this is a great idea!

Sounds like a promising idea. The week after Thanksgiving is often less productive in lecture due to students distracted by travel/upcoming break.

We could just go back to the way things used to be. If it ain't broke...
I've thought about and floated the idea of ending Fall before Thanksgiving for over a decade. The usual response was that it sounded interesting but would never happen. More complicated is how staff workload related to Winter quarter prep will be accomplished when faculty would be largely unavailable. RPT process would have to shift forward as would registration, etc. Probably means that a 10 week summer session would either be impossible or very tight.

Having a week of at Thanksgiving is ridiculous and starting on Thursday... Students are leaving for Thanksgiving the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the week before. Students from our of state or without cars or unable to afford to go home for a week were stuck in town trying to find was to enjoy the holiday. Students should have been studying over the holidays but no family is going to understand that... So they came back unprepared to finish school. Starting Thursdays resulted in numerous classes being cancelled though the administration at all levels does not want to recognize this. Either go back to the Thanksgiving holiday a couple of days and support/require faculty to teach or end before Thanksgiving.

Did not like the survey choices for numbers 1 and 2- be more direct. 'sounds interesting' and 'I would like to know more details' could be re-worded to 'I would likely be in favor of this' and 'I need more info to make a decision'

I am very much in favor of this idea, as it would allow faculty (especially with collaborators elsewhere) the opportunity to continue research at a level that is nearly impossible to maintain during the quarter.

good idea

Do not start before the start of Elementary school. I will not return as a lecturer if Cal Poly starts before Elementary school.

Maybe an announcement of whether or not we may be headed in the direction of the semester system would be helpful.

Thank you for considering our opinions about the academic calendar

I think students and faculty could benefit from having December open for projects, research, travel, vacation, etc.

If the quarter does not end before Thanksgiving, it would be nice for students to have two weeks plus finals (instead of one week plus finals) after Thanksgiving.

I think a winter intersession could be productive toward graduation progress. I teach a lot of Engineering labs in high demand, Students might be open to this since they would not normally be working as they would be in summer.

My primary concern with beginning in early September is the truncation of summer. If we moved in this direction, I would hope that we would begin winter quarter immediately after Jan, 1. Another idea that the Senate might explore is keeping fall the way it is (with ONE week of class plus finals after Thanksgiving) and instead extending spring break to two weeks. The week right now is brutal for faculty. Positively brutal.

It's important to evaluate the effect this may have on student opportunities in the summer (internships, research experiences, etc.)

Probably expensive, because you'll have to pay coaches and others running competitions (debate?) for this time, as well as more time in September. Right?

However the rest of it is decide, starting the quarter on a Thursday sucks.

Moving the fall start earlier would shorten the summer; students may have difficulty finding short internships and summer courses. Orientation events would be moved earlier as well, shortening summer even further for students who participate as leaders in those programs. Staff members would have less "catch-up" time in the summer to wrap up and plan for programming. Would an intersession be state funded or offered through Extended Ed? Students express great concern over the cost of summer classes at Cal Poly (enrollment is low), so I would be concerned that there would be little participation by students in an intersession if the cost was $289 per unit.

Fundamentally, I think the issue is that we are not on semester system, if we were on semesters, then we would have the 5-week break in winter, which then mitigates all these issues about too many holidays bunched up and interfering with our schedule. The long winter break gives people the sense that they can push through, and then take some time off. At campuses like CSUDH, they have (or had) classes Monday thru Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and it worked fine. This focus on having a long vacation around Thanksgiving seems misguided and catering to students who want to go to Tahoe for the week. It isn't fundamentally about student learning. I think returning to our previous schedule solves problems with the Thursday start and shortened WOW. There are many programs that were not as efficient or effective due to the shorter WOW schedule. Freshman have a lot to learn in fall. If we truly care about student success, then we need to focus on how our programs work, not on how much vacation time we are taking.

I'm chagrined that holidays have metastasized. We should go back to having a couple of days off at Thanksgiving, and give exams on the Wednesday before so that people don't skip class. Why is it that workdays before a holiday have suddenly had to become holidays too? This is not how the real world will work for our students, and coddling them this way won't prepare them adequately.
This would permit students to take holiday season jobs. I regard that as its paramount benefit.

Might the semester option emerge again?

I liked very much what we did this year. It is nice to think outside the box. I would like for the president and the provost to seriously consider your recommendation(s). Keep up the good work. Thanks.

Early September and regular end of Spring Quarter means a shorter summer break.

I really liked the schedule this past fall with having the full week off during Thanksgiving.

Starting earlier in September and ending before Thanksgiving makes a lot of sense. I hope we go that route.

is intersession for additional compensation. Is it full 4 units? Can someone swap it out for a quarter?

This is a wonderful idea, particularly because I think the students would benefit from a continuous fall quarter.

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This is a wonderful idea, particularly because I think the students would benefit from a continuous fall quarter.

I liked this year's schedule with all of Thanksgiving week off.

The change to a full week off at Thanksgiving was not an improvement. Now people want to worsen the damage?

1. The questionnaire needs editing. For example, two of the four questions have typos. 2. Also, "Sounds Interesting" is unclear to me. Does it more or less mean "In favor" as opposed to the option "Not in favor?" 3. I'm not in favor of starting fall quarter in early September has nothing to do with possible Thanksgiving schedules but has to do with ending spring quarter in mid-June.

This doesn't seem to do anything except make us work more weeks during the hottest part of the year. Our campus is not equipped to deal with classes during the hot weather, and learning is seriously compromised already in the fall. It would be far better to work on getting us a longer break between winter and spring quarters. That's when everyone feels burned out.

This change could be extremely detrimental to our students abilities to get summer internships. As a Cal Poly student I was desirable to employers because I could work into September. What does this do to our ability to offer a full length summer quarter?

Would like to have the week from Christmas to New Year's off as part of a Dec. intersession. Some schools take all of Jan. off and offer mini-courses during that time -- maybe Cal Poly could do something like that in Dec.

What's an intersession?

I strongly prefer starting later in September.

This past fall, students did NOT use the full week at all to complete tasks; they came back tired and ill-prepared for the remainder of the term. It was a disastrous schedule for my three courses.

How about defining your terms?

While this sounds interesting, I really enjoyed having the full week at Thanksgiving and then coming back. Students seemed refreshed & ready for the "push" at the end of the quarter.

This sounds like it would move us closer to a semester schedule in terms of the timing of fall quarter but would have the effect of separating fall off from the much longer instructional block represented by winter and spring… I would worry about lost momentum and burn-out.

Starting earlier in September and finishing before Thanksgiving is significant better for faculty with children.

Are you also asking the opinion of students? Seems their input would be of value. Does this restrict their summer internships? What would they do in December?

112

sounds exciting

If these changes cannot be implemented then remain with schedule as posted for Fall 2017. With a class start date in second week of September until the end of first week of December.

I would be open to shifting some of that time from winter break toward a slightly longer spring break, between winter quarter and spring quarter. That turnaround is always a bit jarring.

Architecture students use that time over Thanksgiving break to continue with project work. I like that they have that extra time to do their work. It's like getting an extra week of instruction for free, without faculty and staff pay.

I'd rather have most of September, which is a continuation of the Summer break to work on research and prep for the academic year. Late summer is also a good time for research trips instead of December when airline fares go up. Not in favor of an early fall start.

Have fun summarizing responses to Q3. You left yourselves wide open on that one.

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If the break between Fall and Winter were to be 4-6 weeks, it would allow good amount of time for more productive research and professional development activities. Current 15-20 day Winter break simply is not enough.

Aligning our quarter system with semester start/end dates would assist faculty with attending conferences, etc. This appears to be a first step towards changing to the semester system for which I have mixed feelings.

This schedule would be DEVASTATING to the performing arts community. It reflects planning by people with no curricular experience.

Fascinating concept! Do you know of any other institutions that do this? What are the pros/cons that these institutions report from this type of scheduling?

Start Fall quarter as late as possible (e.g., late September) to take advantage of the good weather then for conducting student-centered research outdoors before school starts. Have winter break begin just before Christmas and run as long as possible into January. This allows for an extended period after NYE for student-centered research to be conducted prior to the start of winter quarter. End spring quarter as late as possible (e.g., mid-June) because spring season is poor weather for student-centered research outdoors and so it is better use of time for students to be in the classroom.

I did not like having a week off at Thanksgiving this year, was very disruptive to the flow of the course, hard to get started back into the material after Thanksgiving, too much time away... and then classes end shortly after that, just did not work on any level. thanks!

I would rather have a longer break in the summer. However, I think it's more important to find out what works best for the students.

Stop reducing the summer break!

I'd rather we push back the start to as late as possible and have class the week before Thanksgiving. See the University of Washington's schedule as a template.

I see a possible motivation here... Perhaps it is Extended Ed that would like to profit from an intersession? Do we have the students best interest in mind, or profits?

In my opinion, one drawback of starting fall qtr in early Sep is that summer school students would have no break between summer classes and fall classes.

I'd like to try this out before making it a long-term option but I am definitely interested.

This would be a fantastic shift of ideas for the university. The break in Fall for thanksgiving is very disruptive to continuity of teaching.

Sounds like a great idea and probably would be especially appreciated by our out of state and international students.

Starting earlier sounds interesting and I'd like to know more details. Are students asking for this? Faculty/staff? Are we aware of other schools that operate off this type of calendar?

The fall quarter as it now exists strikes a nice balance of extending the summer into mid to late September and finishing early enough before Christmas to enjoy that break. I don't think it needs to be moved back into the late summer.

It was nice to have the week off at Thanksgiving. I did not like having the quarter go so late into December. If we ended by Dec 12 or so that would be ideal.

I think this is an excellent idea!

If we are going to start fall term early to end before Thanksgiving, it would be nice use the additional time to add a second week of break between winter and spring. I do not believe the students or faculty are properly rested and prepared for spring term with only 1 week break.

Would faculty still get paid for December? For lecturers and those on contracts that are quarter to quarter, what would happen?

This would be more in line with local school calendars so I am already in town with my children who start mid-August.

Thanksgiving is a natural break point between quarters. It has traditionally interrupted the flow of the quarter and students lose energy and drive when they return. It's been my impression, and that of my colleagues, that the quarter would best if it ends before Thanksgiving. It also gives students another opportunity to seek internships or make extra money in the retail business to pay for their classes. So I'm in favor of a long holiday season.

What is an intersession?

A summer quarter the same length as the other three quarters has always been a good point of the traditional Cal Poly calendar. Trying to cram a quarter's worth of material into less time is difficult for students and instructors and leads to pedagogical inconsistencies.
I like how it was done last year. Having a week off during thanksgiving made a lot of sense to me. Many students and faculty have to travel and in many cases some classes are very empty on Monday and Tuesday because people leave earlier. Also it seems safer for students and everyone else to drive home safer and make flight arrangements easier. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

I'm not sure what an intersession is. Perhaps a 5-week accelerated session? I would not be interested in teaching in such a session, since I prefer to spend the holidays with my parents out of state, but would not oppose its creation.

After being off for a week at thanksgiving then returning for one more week of class is a big weird. Students loose their momentum.

Q1: For '17 as an example, it would extend the winter break from (4) weeks to (7) weeks? I am sure all faculty can fill their time with this extra break. Q2: So would an intersession start the week of after thanksgiving break and end the week before the traditional holiday break coming back after the 1st of the year? And would that count towards the Winter Quarter or be a program like some institutions where they have a sprint (4/5) week session during the typical holiday break? Generally speaking, coming from an institution that ran on semesters the quarter system seems a lot more burdensome administratively. So if the goal is to ease the admin burden, it sound interesting but logistically seems improbable to deploy as stated here.

I'd be curious to know if this would negatively impact students' ability to do summer internships. Since we end in mid-June, some internships are not available to quarter-calendar students. Would there also be a problem at the end of summer?

I have been IN FAVOR of this idea for a while. Would be worth a try.

I like having the extra time afforded by a Thanksgiving break to assign longer novels in the fall that I cannot realistically expect students to read during winter and spring quarters, when there are typically only 19 instructional days on a twice per week schedule. I do NOT want to lost the ability to choose a schedule where I can get the requisite 20 class meetings (or even a bonus 21 meetings) as we did when Thanksgiving break fell only W/Th/F. I very much liked having the week off to breathe and then having two full weeks to bring us to the end of the quarter.

I'm not for or against at this point, I am interested in learning more about why we would do that, what the motivation is.

I am very pleased the thanksgiving was extended to a week. Finishing before Thanksgiving is not a good idea in my opinion because it fragments the "free time". The Dec. period is still too short (to do something professionally) but grows at the expense of the summer reducing opportunities for students and faculty. Don't do it.

This is a great idea and aligns with our kids starting schools end of Aug.

The changes in the Fall are welcome, but the very long Spring/Winter quarter blocks are more problematic than Fall.

GREAT IDEA TO END BEFORE THANKSGIVING!

This would shorten the summer considerably for students who must work and do internships. Although they could work over this break, I am worried about their finances. Would want to get more of their input.

Sure shortens summer which is my productive time for work outside of teaching (scholarship)...makes it harder for our students to have meaningful internships.

Seriously, let's end by Thanksgiving. That would literally be the best thing about working here from an organizational perspective. Perhaps the only good thing.

Given that Thanksgiving can come either early or late in November, I would be concerned about the fluctuations in the yearly start date over longer periods of time.

Any schedule as long as we stay on QUARTERS!!

changing to a week for TG was a good idea. Let's leave it alone for a bit!

what is an intersession? not everyone has had this, needed some further explanation. Thursday start was a very bad idea. Most students did not take it seriously, or arrive for classes on time. Hard to fit in with a class that has a weekly pattern. What about ending on a Tuesday, then having Wed - Saturday for finals or something similar. Get rid of the Tuesday start. Consider coordinating with local schools, please.

The week long Thanksgiving was a brilliant idea - I can't get students to show up in my classes that week anyway.

I like this idea a LOT more than having one week of instruction after Thanksgiving before finals week. I am mixed on the two week term of instruction after Thanksgiving before finals. If this idea was not seriously considered, I would prefer we move back to the half-week Thanksgiving break model with one week of instruction after and prior to finals.
I am not in favor of starting earlier in September. It's one reason I don't like semester calendars.

This idea about changes to the Fall quarter calendar seems to move the overall academic year more in the direction of a semester system, with none of the benefits of a semester calendar. With this in mind, it may be worth revisiting the question of semester conversion at Cal Poly.

The full week off for Thanksgiving last year was great. I think students and faculty both enjoyed it. The question came up - why did we have to go back to work on Thursday? We would have had 10 full weeks of class minus 1 holiday (Veteran's Day) if we had started class on Monday. This is similar to all other quarters. The Thursday start was awkward and generally goofed with the teaching flow - are we in week 2 or week 2.3? Thanks!

I would also be excited about more than a week at Spring Break, but a late June graduation would be pretty gnarly.

Make more time for faculty research and scholarship. All calendar changes should not be driven by student concerns alone. We're not a summer camp. This is a major university.

The longer summer is extremely useful for engaging in research projects. This would not be possible if the summer were shorter, and it is generally not possible to travel in December for research projects and collaborations.

Would really like to see the "year around" model fully fleshed out.

I get the feeling that WOW is driving the recent changes in calendar, and that is something I oppose in the absence of a demonstrated cause and effect - not merely a correlation - between a change in the WOW calendar, necessitating a change in the academic calendar, and better safety during WOW. The tail of WOW should not be wagging the dog of academics (that was a lousy metaphor, but the point is made!).

I find that the current timing of Thanksgiving Break really interferes with learning. Students will leave early to maximize their vacation time. Group projects are at a standstill because they are unable/unwilling to meet over the holiday. It disrupts the flow of the week. I think ending the quarter before this holiday would lead to happier and more productive students.

Starting in mid to late September is among the reasons I wanted to be at a quarter system school. Therefore, the earlier we start the more frustrating I find it to my research and international conference commitments.

Don't start a term in the middle of the week.

The advantage our students have in the summer is the ability to work into September because the semester students have already returned to school. Starting the fall quarter in early September is a mistake. Our students already start summer internships (and work) later than other students. With this plan, they would be ending their work at about the same time as semester students. This move is not in the best interest of our students.

Students benefit from the extra week during Fall quarter. It allows some courses to proceed with less rush. Student benefit from having a few days off during Thanksgiving, both to prolong soak time for some course concepts and to allow a little down time. One week off seems excessive for Thanksgiving.

I don't see why we would have an intersession at all. We would still have the same quarters, but fall will begin and end earlier.

Since my own kids are in school before September, I would be happy to begin the fall quarter earlier and have a longer break between fall and winter quarters.

How would this impact our summer break? Would we have off late June to early September? So a shorter summer break but then a longer break in winter?

I would love to do the experiment.

Should proofread (question 2: were rather than where).

I suggest starting Fall Quarter later than planned, not earlier. Starting class on a Thursday is just weird. We should start on Sept 18 or Sept 25 and let the quarter end a little later. Ending before Thanksgiving puts us even more out of sync with all other universities. Making use of an intersession would require a complete re-work of our curriculum.

We have modified our calendar this year. It worked fine. There is no reason to keep tinkering with things. We do much too much experimentation with our calendar and with our university. This needs to stop. New is not always better. Please advise the President and Provost accordingly.

Our students already have a short summer making earning potential from jobs and internships smaller and making it more difficult to get summer research opportunities. Don't make the student's summer any shorter than it already is. I suggest that we get rid of the Veteran's Holiday and President's Day and get rid of the silly two day first week of Fall Qtr.

I like the idea since the local public schools begin in August. It would also sync up times off that match the local school districts better. Having all the holidays off would certainly spread a lot of joy.
I think this is a really interesting idea!! I'm in favor.

Intersession would allow for great international programs and service-oriented programs in and out of the U.S. This would be great for our students b/c then they do not need to choose between the experiences they want and graduating on time.

Those of use who take three month sabbaticals in the summer would miss an entire month of class.

Starting in early September may interfere with summer work experiences.

For me, personally, this could be a big benefit. The International Conference on Information Systems, the major conference in my field, is held in mid-December, which is usually exam week. This would allow me to travel to the conference without impacting my classes.

Starting the quarter in mid-week was awkward, definitely not in favor of that. This plan (finishing before Thanksgiving) is better than what we did this year. Students will always want their weekend/break/vacation to be one day longer, so this plan avoids a bit of that nuisance. The intersession has potential, but it would have to be like summer - optional and for extra pay. I can see enough interest from faculty to make it something that would work. If the classes were fun then students would be interested.

What is an intersession? What happens to summer time (early Sept) bridge programs?

For the purposes of student internships, research projects and alike, cutting the length of summer will no doubt limit opportunities for students and faculty alike.

My preference is not to begin on a Thursday; I feel it throws off the weekly schedule for the Fall Quarter. Last quarter seemed very long with more class time than winter. It seems we could just cut the RF of the first week altogether.

Let's do it.

I'm all for intersession if there are paid opportunities for teaching and/or research with students.

the week off for thanksgiving was a major interruption in the quarter. work in all my courses was affected. not in favor of having that occur again. i don't think it's totally insane to ask university students to make their studies their top priority, and to only take off 3 days for thanksgiving, as the rest of the country does.

I'm strongly opposed to starting fall quarter earlier. The summer is a precious opportunity to pursue research projects, conference travel, and other pursuits that are not possible during the academic year or during the holidays. Please don't keep starting earlier. In fact, I'd prefer to go back to our normal start time for fall and not try to take the entire week off at Thanksgiving - I thought the schedule was fine as it was (now it's our longest quarter).

As nice as it might be to have a month off, I would prefer to have the summer break longer, as most of my research is conducted in the summer.

A couple extra weeks in December won't help me. I'd rather have a longer summer break where I can be much more focused and dedicated to writing papers and proposals, which is difficult to do during the academic year. It would be best to have a long time for this instead of two smaller chunks.

I think it would be beneficial to students not to make them travel home twice so close together. It's an added cost, and added distraction, they don't need.

Totally supportive of this idea.

I believe that starting on a Thursday causes many issues. I would much rather prefer to start on a Monday each quarter. By the way, did you mean "starting" instead of "starting" for question 1?

Fall intersession and summer sessions give faculty additional opportunities to increase yearly compensation while allowing students to complete in four years.

Nothing in August, please!

I wasn't too sure at first about the changes implemented this past year, but after going through it - I loved it. Loved the extra week in January (not starting so close to Jan 1st) too. It was worth going later in December for that. (If we ended by Thanksgiving, would Winter quarter start sooner (i.e. close to Jan 1 again)?)

I'm not sure if this is a good idea, and let's nevertheless hear some more.

More vacation