

Scholastic Standards Committee

To the University Senate

December 2, 2024

Background:

Juneteenth (June 19th): “Juneteenth, also known as America’s Second Independence Day, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It is observed on June 19th, the day in 1865 that Union troops arrived in the last slave-owning community in the country to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation issued more than two years earlier. Though Juneteenth has been celebrated by African American communities since the late 1800s, it only became an official federal holiday in 2021, when President Biden made it the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983. The Connecticut legislature designated Juneteenth as an official state holiday starting in 2023.

Juneteenth celebrates African American achievement while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. Celebrations typically involve guest speakers or lectures to promote education and self-improvement; community elders who recount events in the past; prayer services; barbeques; and parades. More than anything, Juneteenth is about being in a supportive community” (*UConn Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, June 2nd, 2023*).

During the Spring 2023 semester, Juneteenth was acknowledged as a teaching holiday with guidance issued by the Provost encouraging faculty to exercise flexibility for students who wish to observe the holiday and to consider providing recordings of lectures, distributing materials for an asynchronous class session, and considering extensions for students who may be absent in case of any assessments scheduled to be due or to take place on June 19th.

During the Fall 2023 Semester, the Senate Executive Committee tasked the Senate Scholastic Standards Committee with looking into establishing Juneteenth as a non-teaching holiday. In consultation with the Registrar’s Office and others, the committee voted in support of this recommendation.

Summary of Action:

The Senate Scholastic Standards Committee presents a motion to the University Senate to establish Juneteenth (June 19th) as a non-teaching holiday starting in 2025, by adding the governance of academic dates for both Summer and Winter programs to the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate.

This recommendation comes to the Senate in consultation with the Registrar’s office and with the support of President Maric and Provost D’Alleva.

Proposed Bylaw Change:

Article II, H. Academic Calendar

Track Changes Version:

The Academic calendar will be set by the University Registrar according to the following principles: Each academic year begins at the start of one fall semester and ends prior to the start of the next fall semester. The University Registrar uses the following rules to set the calendar for each academic year. The general class schedule is then published by the Registrar.

1. Each academic year consists of two required semesters; fall and spring.
 - a. The end of the semester is defined as the last day of the final exam period. ~~day when semester grades must be submitted to the Registrar. This must occur~~ Grades must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than seventy-two hours after the final examination period ends.
 - a-b. Each fall and spring semester consists of ~~each year with~~ 14 weeks of classes, plus six days of examinations ~~at the end of each and other non-required sessions set up by the registrar that adhere to the credit hour policy. Fall semester.~~ semester classes will begin on the Monday before Labor Day. Spring semester classes will begin on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr Day. The end of the semester is defined as the day when semester grades must be submitted to the Registrar. This must occur no later than seventy-two hours after the final examination period ends. Additional
 - b-c. In each required semester, there are two protected days between the end of classes and the first day of final examinations, called reading days. Reading days ~~are protected time for~~ protect time to allow students to prepare for the final exam and assessment period. On reading days, instructors are not allowed to require any course-related activity, assessment, or submission of work. Instructors are allowed to use reading days for truly optional activities such as office hours.
 - d. For classes in required semesters, ~~some Mondays may be missed due to recognized public holidays. Wherever possible, instructors should try to ensure that students in Monday classes are not deprived of content available to students in Tuesday-Friday classes. This could include asynchronous content, make-up classes, make-up assignments, or other accommodations.~~
 - e. Additional non-required terms are scheduled each academic year during summer and winter. ~~Classes~~ winter.
 - f. ~~Classes~~ in required semesters and non-required terms must all adhere to the University Credit Hour Policy, as appropriate for the credits awarded.
 - g. Most major public holidays are recognized as non-instructional days. On a non-instructional day, classes cannot be scheduled, and instructors should not require the submission of work. When the date of a public holiday falls on a weekend and a Friday or Monday is recognized as the official public holiday, the recognized date will be a non-instructional day. Only public holidays recognized as non-instructional days in the sections below are protected. Other public holidays can be scheduled into semester or term calendars as instructional or assessment days.
 - e-h. The recognition of public holidays for the purpose of scheduling semesters and terms is separate to the University Religious Accommodation Policy. The Religious Accommodation Policy sets forth requirements in accordance with relevant laws and regulations regarding religious beliefs.

~~In each required semester, there are two protected days between the end of classes and the first day of final examinations. These protected days are called reading days. For the required main semesters, there will be two calendar days between the last day of classes and the first day of final examinations which shall be known as Reading Days. Reading Days are protected time for students to prepare for the final exam and assessment period. Instructors shall not require any course-related activity, assessment, or submission of work on Reading Days. Instructors may use Reading Days for optional activities, such as office hours.~~

~~Whenever appropriate, instructors with Monday classes are encouraged to arrange make up classes, make up assignments, or other accommodations for students having Monday class holidays so they will not be deprived of course content that would be available to students in Tuesday-Friday classes.~~

~~All classes must adhere to the credit hour policy documented here [XX](#).~~

2. **Fall Semesters** will adhere to the following principles structured by the Registrar using the following rules:

- a. Classes shall begin on the Monday preceding before Labor Day.
- b. Residence Halls shall open no later than must be open no later than the weekend before classes start the start of classes.
- c. The public holiday of Labor Day is recognized as a public holiday a non-instructional day. As a non-instructional day no classes can be scheduled on this day.
- d. There is a week of break during the week of Thanksgiving. No classes are held during this week. Thanksgiving is recognized as a public holiday.
- e. The first Thursday of final examination week is a reading day. No regularly scheduled final examinations or assessments can be scheduled for this day. Instructors must adhere to the protections outlined above.

3. **Spring Semesters** are structured by the Registrar using the following rules will adhere to the following principles:

- d-a. Spring semester classes shall begin on the Tuesday after [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) ~~Martin Luther King, Jr. Da.~~
- e-b. The public holiday of Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a non-instructional day.
- f-c. Residence halls must be open no later than the weekend before the start of classes.
- g-d. A one-week spring break will be scheduled after 8 weeks of classes. The first week of classes is counted as the week during which classes commence (the week of [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#)).
- h-e. Commencement must be scheduled after the end of the final assessment period.

2.4. **Non-required terms** are structured by the Registrar using the following rules:

- a. Classes cannot overlap with Fall and Spring semesters, including the formal assessment periods for those semesters.
- b. Non-required terms may be of variable length. The length and other calendar parameters will be used by the Registrar to schedule each term. Classes in each term will be scheduled to adhere to the University Credit Hour Policy. The Registrar may also schedule other non-required terms to meet the needs of the University, recognizing the same public holidays outlined in this section and following the same general parameters.

- c. A three-week winter term will be scheduled each year between the fall and spring semesters. This will be scheduled so that it ends before the first day of the Spring semester. ~~usually begin on the first possible teaching day of the week following Christmas.~~
- d. During winter term the public holidays of Christmas Day and New Year's Day are non-instructional days.
- e. A May term will be scheduled, which will begin on the first Monday following May commencement.
- f. Two summer session terms of six weeks will be scheduled. The first will begin after the formal instructional and assessment period of the May term is completed.
- g. The two summer terms will not overlap with one another, including scheduled days for final assessments. Scheduled Instructional and assessment days for any summer term must finish before the start of the fall semester.
- h. During May and summer terms, the public holidays of Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Independence Day are non-instructional days.

Residence halls shall open no later than the weekend before classes start.

A one-week spring break shall take place after 8 weeks of classes. Commencement cannot occur at a time when a final assessment is given.

Non-required terms will adhere to the following principles: Classes cannot overlap with Fall and Spring semesters. A three-week winter term will be scheduled. This will begin on the first possible teaching day of the week following Christmas. Winter term classes shall take place for the duration of three weeks beginning the first teaching day of the week following Christmas. May Term classes shall take place for the duration of three weeks beginning the Monday following May commencement. Two six-week long summer sessions shall take place. The first begins on the first possible teaching day following the May term. The second is scheduled so that it begins after the assessment period of the first summer session is completed.

e. one summer session could last five weeks beginning XX. Two five-week long summer sessions will take place with the same start dates as the six-week long sessions.

e. Classes shall not meet on New Year's Day (January 1st of each year)

——— f. Classes shall not meet on Memorial Day (the last Monday of May each year)

——— g. Classes shall not meet on Juneteenth (June 19th of each year)

h. Classes shall not meet on Independence Day (July 4th of each year)

i. Non-required terms classes will be scheduled by the Registrar and adheres to university credit hour regulations.

Proposed Bylaw Change:

Article II, H. Academic Calendar

Clean Version:

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1. Each academic year consists of two required semesters; fall and spring.
 - a. The end of the semester is defined as the last day of the final exam period. Grades must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than seventy-two hours after the final examination period ends.
 - b. Each fall and spring semester consists of 14 weeks of classes, plus six days of examinations at the end of each semester.
 - c. In each required semester, there are two protected days between the end of classes and the first day of final examinations, called reading days. Reading days protect time to allow students to prepare for the final exam and assessment period. On reading days, instructors are not allowed to require any course-related activity, assessment, or submission of work. Instructors are allowed to use reading days for truly optional activities such as office hours.
 - d. For classes in required semesters, some Mondays may be missed due to recognized public holidays. Wherever possible, instructors should try to ensure that students in Monday classes are not deprived of content available to students in Tuesday – Friday classes. This could include asynchronous content, make-up classes, make-up assignments, or other accommodations.
 - e. Additional non-required terms are scheduled each academic year during summer and winter.
 - f. Classes in required semesters and non-required terms must all adhere to the University Credit Hour Policy, as appropriate, for the credits awarded.
 - g. Most major public holidays are recognized as non-instructional days. On a non-instructional day, classes cannot be scheduled, and instructors should not require the submission of work. When the date of a public holiday falls on a weekend, and a Friday or Monday is recognized as the official public holiday, the recognized date will be a non-instructional day. Only public holidays recognized as non-instructional days in the sections below are protected. Other public holidays can be scheduled into semester or term calendars as instructional or assessment days.
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2. **Fall Semesters** are structured by the Registrar using the following rules:
 - a. Classes begin on the Monday before Labor Day.
 - b. Residence Halls must be open no later than the weekend before the start of classes.
 - c. The public holiday of Labor Day is a non-instructional day.
 - d. There is a week of break during the week of Thanksgiving. No classes are held during this week. Thanksgiving is recognized as a public holiday.
 - e. The first Thursday of final examination week is a reading day. No regularly scheduled final examinations or assessments can be scheduled for this day. Instructors must adhere to the protections outlined above.
3. **Spring Semesters** are structured by the Registrar using the following rules:
 - a. Spring semester classes begin on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
 - b. The public holiday of Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a non-instructional day.
 - c. Residence halls must be open no later than the weekend before the start of classes.
 - d. A one-week spring break will be scheduled after 8 weeks of classes. The first week of classes is counted as the week during which classes commence (the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day).
 - e. Commencement must be scheduled after the end of the final assessment period.
4. **Non-required Terms** are structured by the Registrar using the following rules:
 - a. Classes cannot overlap with Fall and Spring semesters, including the formal assessment periods for those semesters.
 - b. Non-required terms may be of variable length. The length and other calendar parameters will be used by the Registrar to schedule each term. Classes in each term will be scheduled to adhere to the University Credit Hour Policy. The registrar may also schedule other non-required terms to meet the needs of the university, recognizing the same public holidays outlined in this section and following the same general parameters.
 - c. A three-week winter term will be scheduled each year between the fall and spring semesters. This will be scheduled so that it ends before the first day of the Spring semester.
 - d. During winter term the public holidays of Christmas Day and New Year's Day are non-instructional days.
 - e. A May term will be scheduled, which will begin on the first Monday following May commencement.
 - f. Two summer session terms of six weeks will be scheduled. The first will begin after the formal instructional and assessment period of the May term is completed.
 - g. The two summer terms will not overlap with one another, including scheduled days for final assessments. Scheduled instructional and assessment days for any summer term must finish before the start of the fall semester.
 - h. During May and summer terms, the public holidays of Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Independence Day are non-instructional days.