

By electronic communication, the following matters were considered by the Academic Standards and Calendar Committee and are now presented to the Faculty Senate:

Item 1: Academic Calendars for Accelerated Online Programs (2019-2020 and 2020-2021)

The following two-year calendar for the full-online accelerated programs, developed by the Office of Online Education in consultation with the Office of Enrollment Services, has been approved by the Committee.

ACCELERATED ONLINE CALENDAR		2019-2020	2020-2021
Summer 1	Online Registration Opens	March 25, 2019	March 23, 2020
	Last day to register	May 6, 2019	May 4, 2020
	Classes Begin	May 7, 2019	May 5, 2020
	Last day to ADD	May 9, 2019	May 7, 2020
	DROP Period with 100% adjustment of fees	May 9, 2019	May 7, 2020
	Classes End	June 24, 2019	June 22, 2020
	Final grades due in e?campus by 5:00 p.m.	June 26, 2019	June 24, 2020
Summer 2	Online Registration Opens	March 25, 2019	March 23, 2020
	Last day to register	July 1, 2019	June 29, 2020
	Classes Begin	July 2, 2019	June 30, 2020
	Last day to ADD	July 4, 2019	July 2, 2020
	DROP Period with 100% adjustment of fees	July 4, 2019	July 2, 2020
	Classes End	August 19, 2019	August 17, 2020
	Final grades due in e?campus by 5:00 p.m.	August 21, 2019	August 19, 2020
Fall 1	Online Registration Opens	July 22, 2019	July 20, 2020
	Last day to register	September 2, 2019	August 31, 2020
	Classes Begin	September 3, 2019	September 1, 2020
	Last day to ADD	September 5, 2019	September 3, 2020
	DROP Period with 100% adjustment of fees	September 5, 2019	September 3, 2020
	Classes End	October 21, 2019	October 19, 2020
	Final grades due in e?campus by 5:00 p.m.	October 23, 2019	October 21, 2020
Fall 2	Online Registration Opens	July 22, 2019	July 20, 2020
	Last day to register	October 28, 2019	October 26, 2020
	Classes Begin	October 29, 2019	October 27, 2020
	Last day to ADD	October 31, 2019	October 29, 2020
	DROP Period with 100% adjustment of fees	October 31, 2019	October 29, 2020
	Classes End	December 16, 2019	December 14, 2020
	Final grades due in e?campus by 5:00 p.m.	December 18, 2019	December 16, 2020
Spring 1	Online Registration Opens	November 25, 2019	November 23, 2020
	Last day to register	January 6, 2020	January 4, 2021
	Classes Begin	January 7, 2020	January 5, 2021
	Last day to ADD	January 9, 2020	January 7, 2021
	DROP Period with 100% adjustment of fees	January 9, 2020	January 7, 2021
	Classes End	February 24, 2020	February 22, 2021
	Final grades due in e?campus by 5:00 p.m.	February 26, 2020	February 24, 2021
Spring 2	Online Registration Opens	November 25, 2019	November 23, 2020
	Last day to register	March 2, 2020	March 1, 2021
	Classes Begin	March 3, 2020	March 2, 2021
	Last day to ADD	March 5, 2020	March 4, 2021
	DROP Period with 100% adjustment of fees	March 5, 2020	March 4, 2021
	Classes End	April 20, 2020	April 19, 2021
	Final grades due in e?campus by 5:00 p.m.	April 22, 2020	April 21, 2021

Item 2: Comparison of fall calendars of state universities in New England

At the suggestion of a Faculty Senate Executive Committee member, the Committee has examined the fall academic calendars of all state universities in New England.

Fall 2016	Columbus Day	Election Day	Veterans Day	Wed. before Thanksgiving	Reading Day	Final Exam Period
UMaine	No Classes (Mo-Tu)	Classes held	No Classes (except classes that meet once per week)	No Classes (Break W-F)	Sa, Su	5 days (M-F)
UVT	No Classes	Classes held	Classes held	No Classes (Break M-F)	Sa, Su, We	4 days (M,T,R,F)
UNH	Classes held	Classes held but no exams	No Classes	No Classes (Break W-F)	Sa, Su	6 days (M-Sa)
UMass-Lowell	No Classes	Classes held	No Classes	Classes held	Sa	6 days (M-Sa)
UMass-Amherst	No Classes	Classes held	No Classes	No Classes (Break M-F)	Th, Sa	5 days (F, M-R)
UMass-Dartmouth	No Classes	Classes held	No Classes	Classes held	Tu	5 days* (W-F,M-T)
UConn	Classes held	Classes held	Classes held	No Classes (Break M-F)	Th	6 days (M-W,F-Su)

* no indication if there are Sat. exams

<https://calendar.umaine.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2016/02/2016-2017-Academic-Calendar-.pdf>
http://www.uvm.edu/~rgweb/?Page=importantdates/i_ac1617.html&SM=i_menu.html
<http://www.unh.edu/main/unh-calendar>
<http://www.uml.edu/Registrar/Calendars/2016-fall-undergrad.aspx>
<http://www.umass.edu/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar#fa2015>
<http://www.umassd.edu/academiccalendar/>
<http://registrar.uconn.edu/academic-calendar/fall-2016/>

Some noteworthy items:

- Most do not hold classes on Columbus Day
- All hold classes on Election Day (New Hampshire does not have exams)
- Four universities give the entire week of Thanksgiving off (2 hold classes on the Wed. before Thanksgiving and 1 gives Wed. off)
- All have final exam periods less than 7 days

Item 3: Is it possible to condense the final examination period?

At the suggestion of Senators Hillary Leonard and Catherine Sama at the 2/23/17 Faculty Senate meeting, the Committee explored the option of reducing the duration of the final exam period. Section 8.70.23 of the University Manual currently requires a minimum of seven days be scheduled for final examinations. Saturdays and Sundays may also be used as final examination days under extraordinary circumstances.

The Committee discussed the matter with Enrollment Services and the option of eliminating the last day of final exams (December 22nd) which consistently contains two 3-hour timeslots for common exams (8-11 am and 11:30 am-2:30 pm) was discussed. It was noted that other common exam timeslots were available elsewhere in the final exam schedule.

In an effort to assess whether any faculty would be adversely affected by this change, the Committee requested that Enrollment Services provide a list of faculty members who used these timeslots in the past two semesters (SP16 and FL16). Only one faculty member was identified (Godi Fischer, ELE 480). The Committee Chair contacted Prof. Fischer and he had no objections.

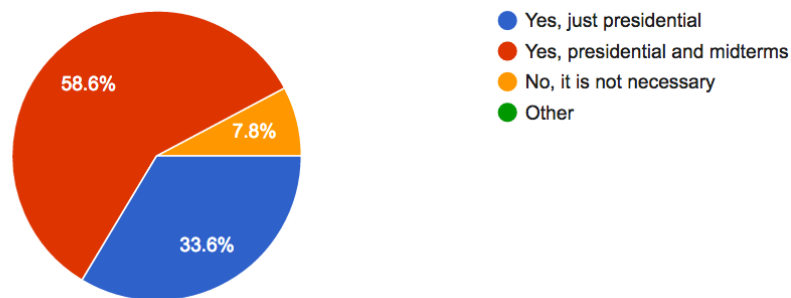
Condensing the final exam period to 6 days is possible but will require a change to the Manual.

Item 4: Does holding classes on Election Day prevent students from voting?

The Committee recently became aware of a survey conducted by Student Senate related to Election Day. The Committee Chair reached out to Student Senate (Cody Anderson, President of Student Senate, Victoria Russo and Ro Percy, student speakers at the February Faculty Senate meeting) and obtained the following results from Ms. Vanessa Garcia Polanco (Chair of the Student Senate Committee on Academic Affairs).

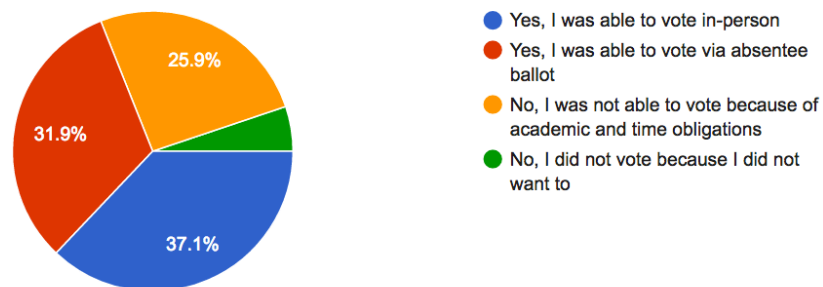
The online survey (available for over 6 weeks) was distributed via social media and included 116 undergraduate student respondents.

Would you support having election day off? (116 responses)



Given your academic schedule, were you able to vote this election?

(116 responses)



Comments:

- When asked if they wanted Election Day off, 92% of students answered yes.
- When asked if they voted in the election, 73% of those that wanted to vote did vote (5% indicated they did not want to vote). Nationally, the voter turnout was about 60% for this past election¹.

Holding classes on Election Day does not prevent students from voting.

¹ <http://www.electproject.org/2016g>

Item 5: Does the current voting policy in RI adversely affect undergraduate students?

According to the Rhode Island Board of Elections², “Rhode Island has joined 30 other states and the District of Columbia that now allow no excuse mail ballot voting. If you may not be able to get to the polls on Election Day, you can fill out a mail ballot application and receive a mail ballot.” A mail ballot application is available online. Thus, if a RI student is not able to get to the polls on Election Day, for any reason at all, they are still able to vote.

For out of state students from MA, CT or NJ, all states offer the opportunity to vote using an absentee ballot^{3,4,5}. Massachusetts also allows early voting⁶.

The current voting policies of RI and neighboring states do not adversely impact college students.

Item 6: What is the preference of the students and faculty if an extra day in the fall semester were available?

The Committee recently conducted a survey of all undergraduate students and faculty related to the fall semester. The survey was sent to all 543 tenure-track faculty members on 3/6/17 through the Faculty Senate and to all undergraduate students on 3/7/17 through URI Communications.

The two surveys were identical and contained only one question: “What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.”

Seven choices were presented:

1. Start the semester a day later
2. Take Columbus Day off
3. Take Election Day off
4. Take the Wed. before Thanksgiving off
5. Have an extra reading day
6. Eliminate final exams on Sat.
7. End the semester a day earlier

² <http://www.elections.state.ri.us/voting/mailballot.php>

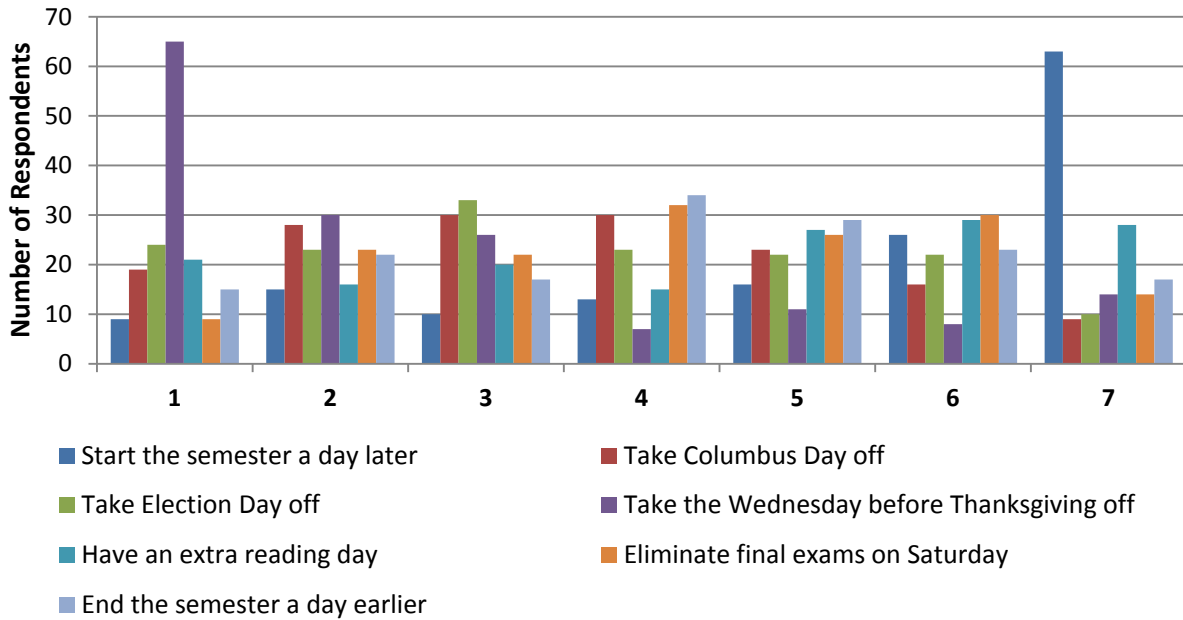
³ <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleabsentee/absidx.htm>

⁴ <http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3179&q=533084>

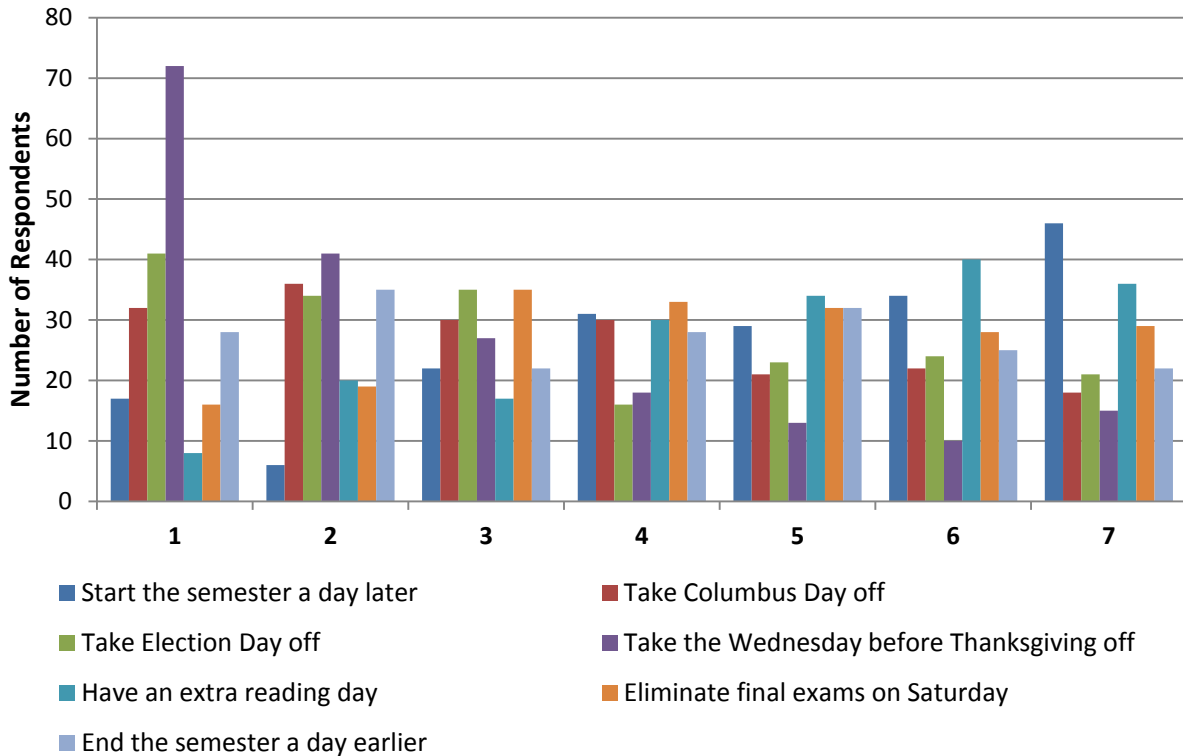
⁵ <http://www.njelections.org/voting-information-vote-by-mail.html>

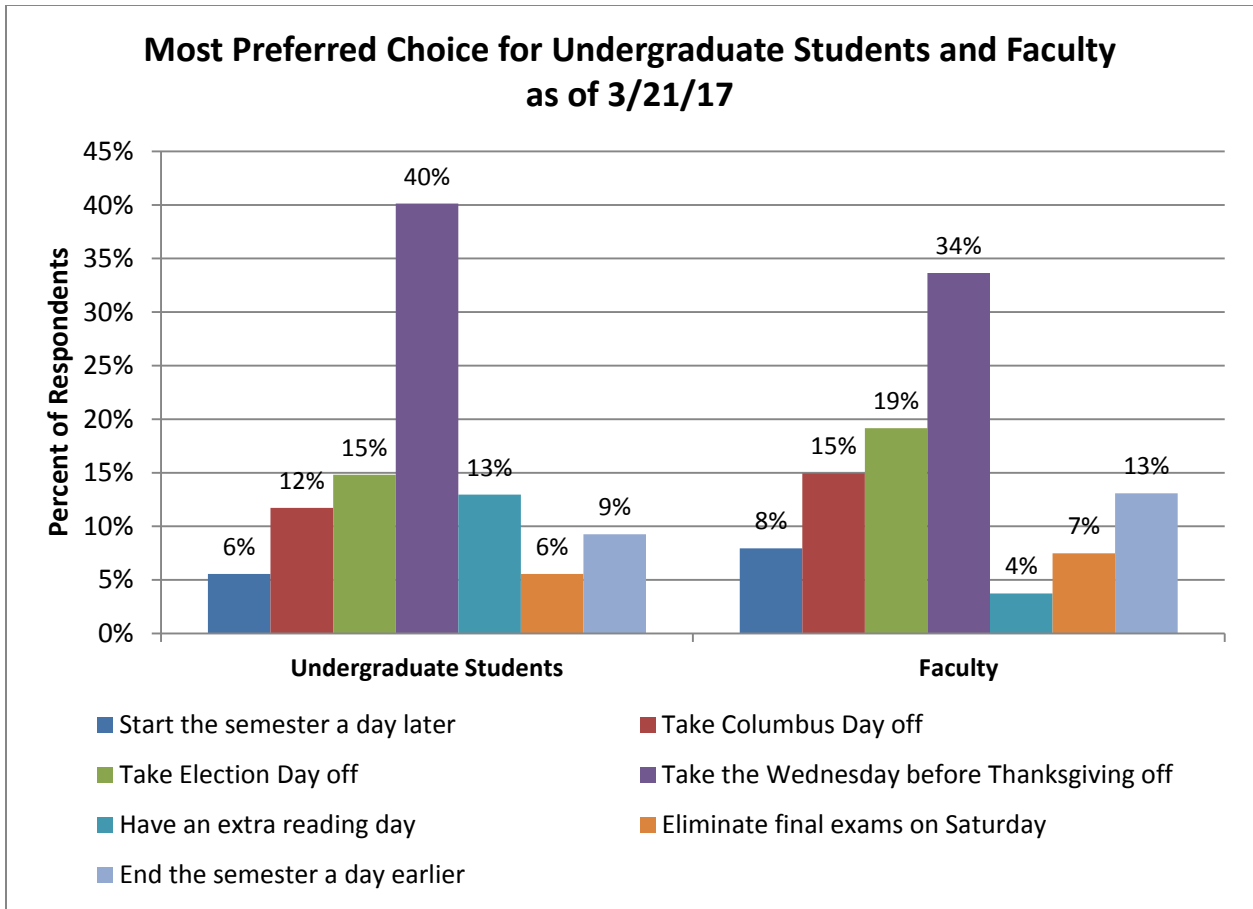
⁶ <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elev/evidx.htm>

Undergraduate Student Perspective: 164 Responses as of 3/21/17 (1 = most preferred and 7 = least preferred)



Faculty Perspective: 216 Responses as of 3/21/17 (1 = most preferred and 7 = least preferred)





The top three priorities for both students and faculty were nearly the same:

1. Take the Wed. before Thanksgiving off (40% of students and 34% of faculty)
2. Take Election Day off (15% of students and 19% of faculty)
3. Take Columbus Day off (12% of students and 15% of faculty). *Note: 13% of students ranked having an extra reading day as their most preferred choice.*

A complete summary of the survey (with respondent comments) is provided as appendices.

The top request by both students and faculty is to take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off.

Item 7: Proposed AY22-23 calendar

This is the same calendar the Committee submitted at the February Faculty Senate meeting.

FALL	2022
Labor Day, classes do not meet, offices are closed	M. Sep. 5
Advising Day	T. Sep. 6
Classes begin (<i>pro-rata billing period for all classes begins</i>)	W. Sep. 7
e-Campus Open Add Period	Sep. 7-13
e-Campus Permission Number Late Add Period	Sep. 14 - 20
Last day to ADD any course via eCampus/Permission Number and to ADD Pass/Fail Option (<i>Last day to drop any class with pro-rata billing adjustment</i>)	T. Sep. 20
Last day to DROP courses with NO TRANSCRIPT DESIGNATION (<i>pro-rata billing adjustment not applicable after add period</i>)	W. Sep. 28
Courses dropped on or after this date will have a "W" for Withdrawal recorded on the Academic Record.	Th. Sep. 29
Columbus Day	M. Oct. 10 Friday Classes Meet, Offices Closed
Columbus Day Class make up day	NA
Last day for students to DROP courses (<i>pro-rata billing adjustment not applicable after add period</i>)	W. Oct. 19
Mid-semester	F. Oct. 21
Last day to CHANGE from Pass/Fail Option	F. Oct. 21
Freshmen Mid Term Grades and Mid Term Surveys due in e-Campus by 12:00 PM	T. Oct. 25
Election Day	T. Nov. 8 Classes Meet, Offices Closed
Election Day Class make up day	NA
Veteran's Day	F. Nov. 11 Classes Do Not meet, Offices Closed
Veterans Day Class make-up day	NA
Thanksgiving Recess, Classes Do Not Meet	Nov 23-27
Last Day of Classes	M. Dec. 12
Reading day(s)	T. Dec. 13
Final Examinations	Dec. 14-16, 19 - 22
Final Exams Make-up Day. (Used only in the event of Official Snow Delay or Cancellation)	F. Dec. 23
Final grades due in e-Campus by 12:00 PM	W. Dec. 28 by 12:00 p.m.
Official date for December graduation	Dec. 31, 2022
Commencement Ceremonies	May 20-21, 2023
Total class days	13 M-F
Total instruction weeks	16

WINTER J-TERM	2023
Winter J-Term Pre-registration begins	M. Oct. 31, 2022
Classes begin	M. Jan. 2
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Classes Do Not Meet, Offices Closed	M. Jan. 16
Last Day of Classes	F. Jan. 20
Final grades due in e-Campus prior to the 1st day of Spring classes	S. Jan. 21

SPRING	2023
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Classes not in session	M. Jan. 16
Advising Day	F. Jan. 20
Classes begin (<i>pro-rata billing period for all classes begins</i>)	M. Jan. 23
e-Campus Open Add Period	Jan. 23 - Jan. 29
e-Campus Permission Number Late Add Period	Jan. 30 - Feb. 5
Last day to ADD any course via eCampus/Permission Number and to ADD Pass/Fail Option (<i>Last day to drop any class with pro-rata billing adjustment</i>)	Su. Feb. 5
Last day to DROP courses with NO TRANSCRIPT DESIGNATION (<i>pro-rata billing adjustment not applicable after add period</i>)	M. Feb. 13
Courses dropped on or after this date will have a "W" for Withdrawal recorded on the Academic Record.	T. Feb. 14
Presidents' Day	M. Feb. 20 Classes Do Not Meet, Offices Open
President's Day Class make up day	NA
Last day for students to DROP courses (<i>pro-rata billing adjustment not applicable after add period</i>)	M. Mar. 6
Mid-semester	W. Mar. 8
Spring Break, classes do not meet, offices are open	Mar. 13-19
Freshmen Mid Term Grades and Mid Term Surveys due in e-Campus by 12:00 PM	T. Mar. 21
Last day to CHANGE from Pass/Fail Option	F. Mar. 24
Last Day of Classes	M. May 1
Reading day or class make-up day if needed	T. May 2
Reading day	W. May 3
Final examinations	May 4-5, 8-12
Final grades due in e_Campus by 12:00 PM	T. May 16 by 12:00 p.m.
Graduate Commencement Ceremony	Saturday, May 20, 2023
Undergraduate Commencement Cermony	Sunday, May 21, 2023
Total class days	13 M-F
Total instruction weeks	15

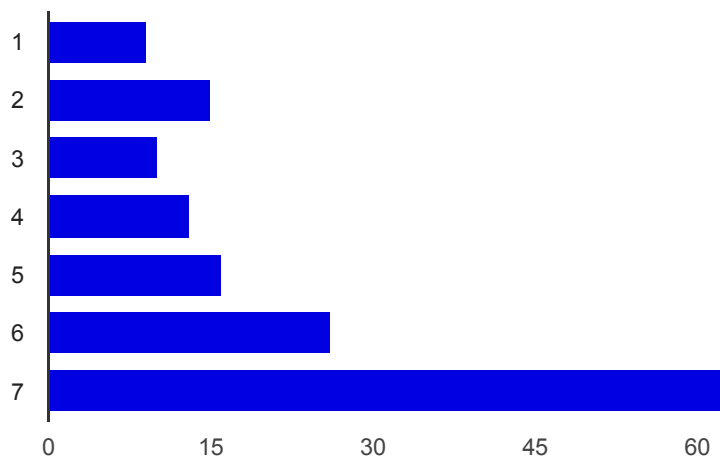
Appendix A: Survey Results to Undergraduate Students

164 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

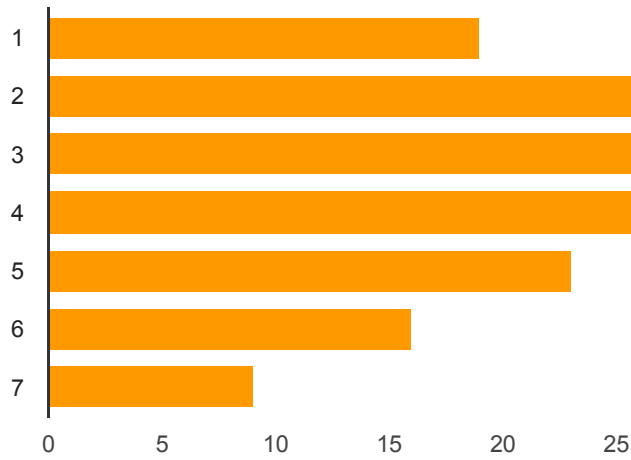
Summary

Start the semester a day later [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



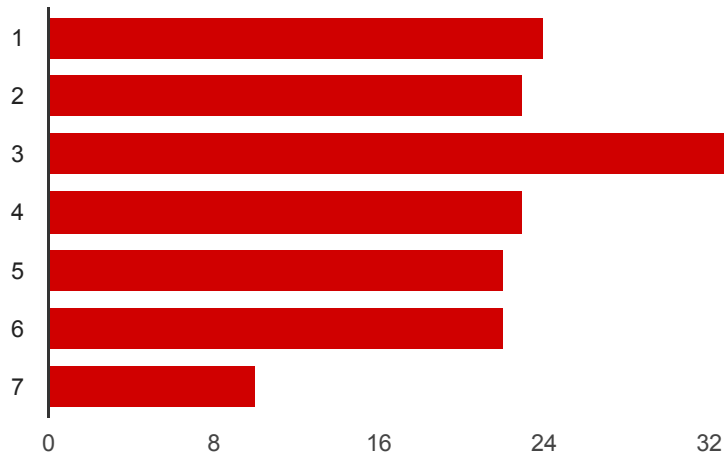
1	9	5.9%
2	15	9.9%
3	10	6.6%
4	13	8.6%
5	16	10.5%
6	26	17.1%
7	63	41.4%

Take Columbus Day off [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



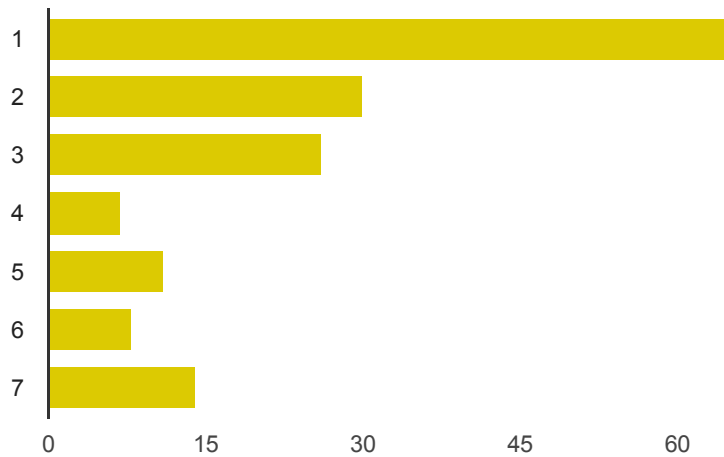
4	30	19.4%
5	23	14.8%
6	16	10.3%
7	9	5.8%

Take Election Day off [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



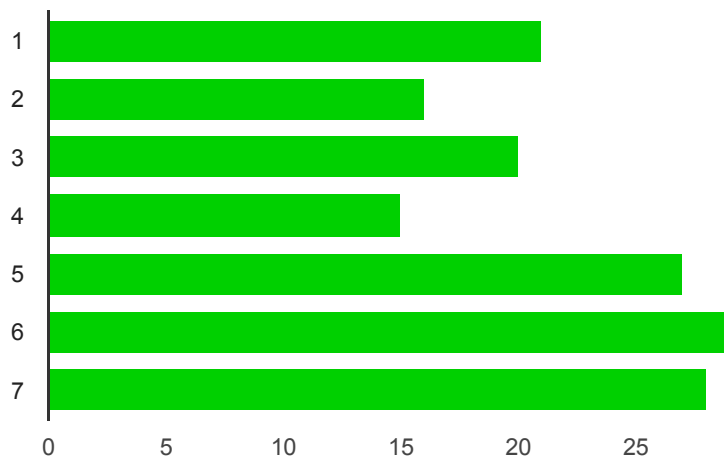
1	24	15.3%
2	23	14.6%
3	33	21%
4	23	14.6%
5	22	14%
6	22	14%
7	10	6.4%

Take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



1	65	40.4%
2	30	18.6%
3	26	16.1%
4	7	4.3%
5	11	6.8%
6	8	5%
7	14	8.7%

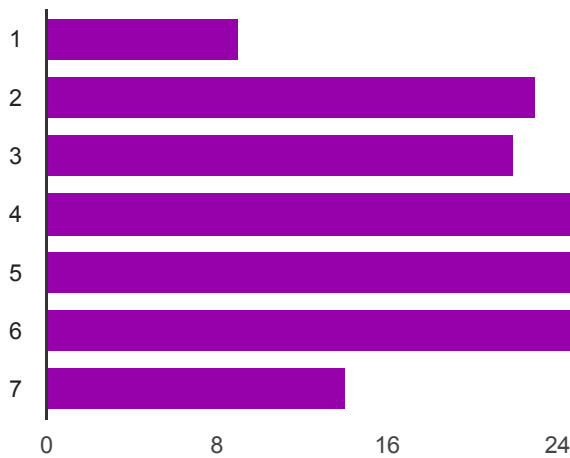
Have an extra reading day [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



1	21	13.5%
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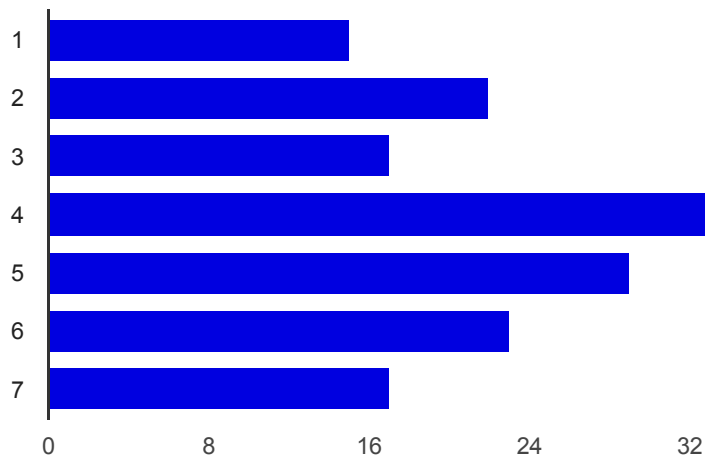
2	16	10.3%
3	20	12.8%
4	15	9.6%
5	27	17.3%
6	29	18.6%
7	28	17.9%

Eliminate final exams on Saturday [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



1	9	5.8%
2	23	14.7%
3	22	14.1%
4	32	20.5%
5	26	16.7%
6	30	19.2%
7	14	9%

End the semester a day earlier [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



5	29	18.5%
6	23	14.6%
7	17	10.8%

Comments:

Too bad students didn't have the choice of selecting two options, as my second choice would be to "take Columbus Day off". Holidays are important to spend with family and friends. We only live once!

No comment

Election day may be the most important. Many people already take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off. I have even had some professors take it off.

Survey works well and will be helpful at gauging the student population on these questions!

I feel as if having the Wednesday before thanksgiving off makes it a lot easier for people who don't live in state & would be a good adjustment to the calendar

The day before Thanksgiving is a popular option for other universities in the area. Also, many people skip these courses for travel plans already.

Either day before thanksgiving or Columbus Day

I think an extra reading day for students to prepare for exams would be very helpful!

Thank you! :)

I think students would benefit from having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving because many people need to time to travel home, at this time of the year weather conditions could be very unexpected.

The Wednesday before thanksgiving should be used for traveling. A lot of students are from out of state and this is a highly traveled day with a lot of traffic that makes traveling very inconvenient. URI needs to consider students who travel from out of state.

As an out of state resident, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is such a busy traveling day I find it very difficult to be able to find a ride home, and travel home safely. Often

times, I find that most students skip that day of class as it is and then it is affecting our education. It is inconsiderate that only in-state students are taken into account by not having this day off. This would be most beneficial for not only all students, but faculty as well. Faculty would have better attendance showings, since students would not need to "skip" their Wednesday classes. It is honestly shocking that we do not have it off already.

have an extra reading day

For people who live far away, an extra day being added to an established break is a valuable travel day that they wouldn't have otherwise had.

Perhaps start exams early? Do we really need any reading days?

Travelling home on Thanksgiving was difficult

I know that being an out of state student this was a particularly hard decision for me to make every year, what time I would leave, if I would have to skip class to catch a plane or a train in the most affordable time slot. I really don't think starting any later or ending earlier would make that much of a difference especially by one day. I think Saturday exams are unfair, however, I never had an exam on a Saturday so I don't exactly know how that would affect me or my studying for exams. I think having election day off again is really important to those who not only are out of state but for anyone in Rhode Island to make sure they have the time to vote. After this election especially, it is important that millennials take the time to vote. Columbus day is a day in New England especially that I've noticed a lot of people have off so there may be some benefit to the long weekend but not necessarily anything prevalent comes to mind as to why that should be the day.

I would really love to have a longer Thanksgiving break!

Taking the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off would be beneficial to the 43% of students who live out of state and need to travel for the holiday. In my experience, most students skip class on that day or the professor will cancel it which sets the class behind for the semester anyway.

I want wednesday before Thanksgiving off.

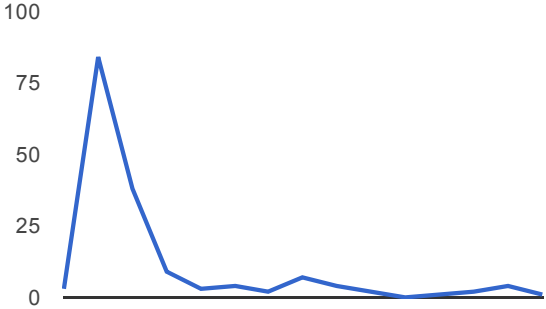
They are all good ideas and any one of them is welcome. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Columbus Day holidays are most preferred, followed quickly by eliminating the Saturday final exam.

What about starting the semester a day earlier?

Most professors give the Wednesday before thanksgiving off because they understand out of state people need to get home, but I have Been in classes and labs where students were required to be there and it caused them to drive home late at night or hvento book more expensive train tickets home. Out of state students should be punished for wanting to be home by Wednesday before a major holiday

Thank you for asking for student input!

Number of daily responses



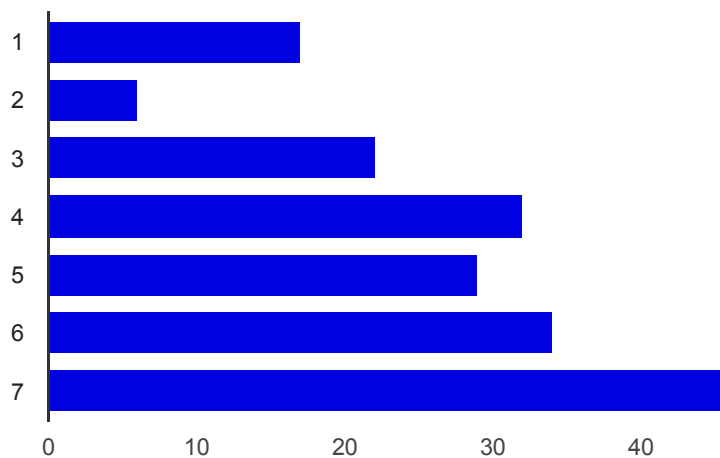
Appendix B: Survey Results to Faculty

216 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

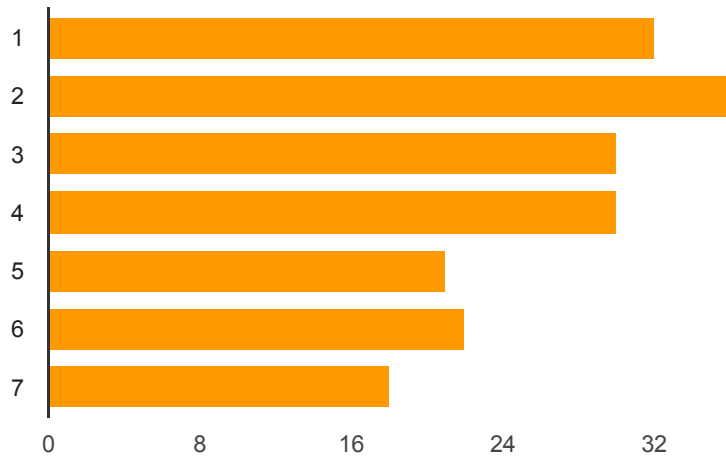
Summary

Start the semester a day later [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



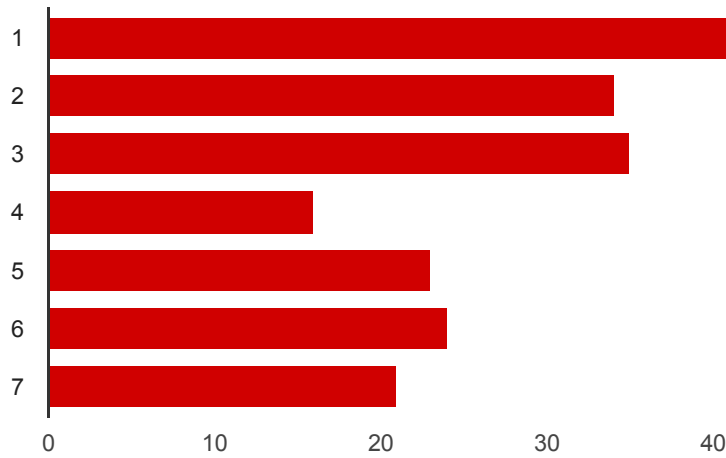
1	17	9.1%
2	6	3.2%
3	22	11.8%
4	32	17.2%
5	29	15.6%
6	34	18.3%
7	46	24.7%

Take Columbus Day off [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



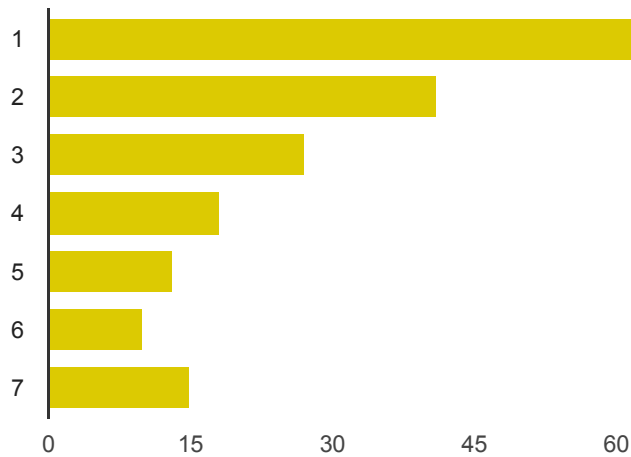
4	30	15.9%
5	21	11.1%
6	22	11.6%
7	18	9.5%

Take Election Day off [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



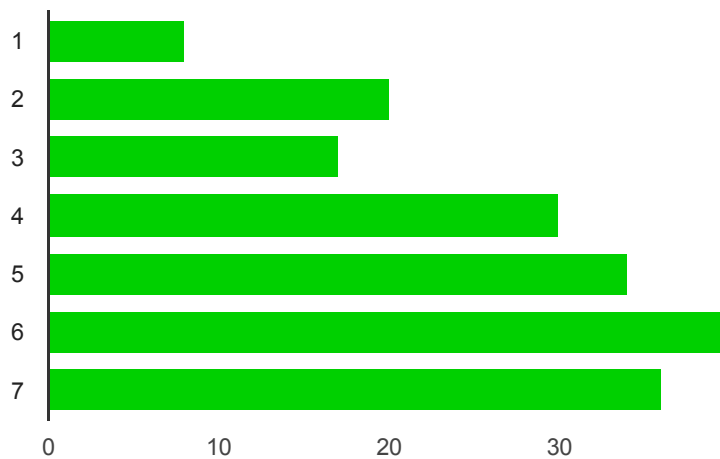
1	41	21.1%
2	34	17.5%
3	35	18%
4	16	8.2%
5	23	11.9%
6	24	12.4%
7	21	10.8%

Take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



1	72	36.7%
2	41	20.9%
3	27	13.8%
4	18	9.2%
5	13	6.6%
6	10	5.1%
7	15	7.7%

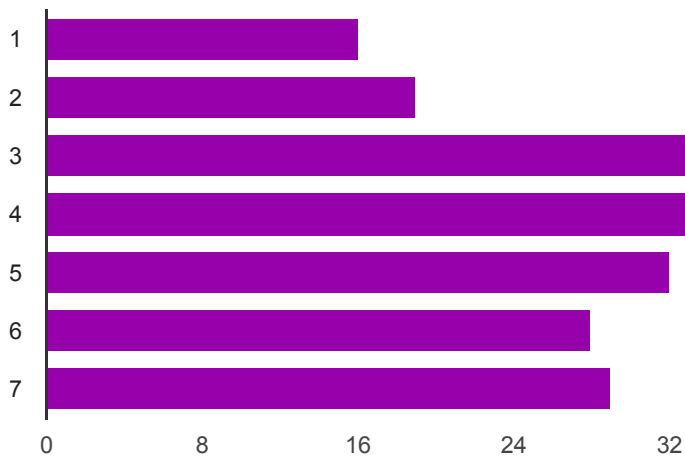
Have an extra reading day [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



1	8	4.3%
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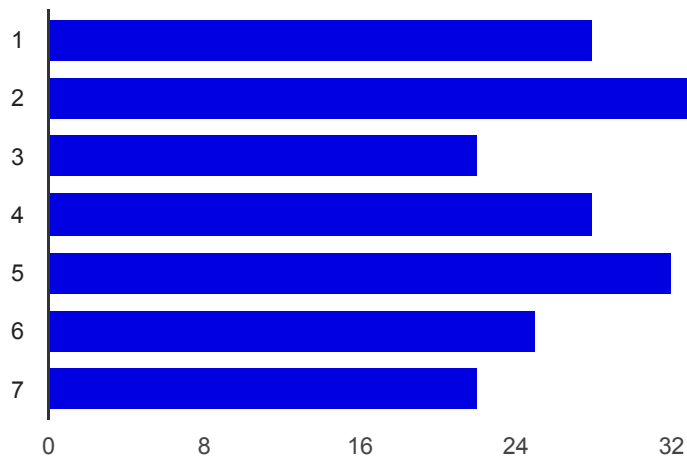
2	20	10.8%
3	17	9.2%
4	30	16.2%
5	34	18.4%
6	40	21.6%
7	36	19.5%

Eliminate final exams on Saturday [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



1	16	8.3%
2	19	9.9%
3	35	18.2%
4	33	17.2%
5	32	16.7%
6	28	14.6%
7	29	15.1%

End the semester a day earlier [What would you do with an extra day in the fall semester? Rank the following options (1 = most preferred choice and 7 = least preferred choice). Select only one response per column.]



5	32	16.7%
6	25	13%
7	22	11.5%

Comments:

Having Wednesday of Thanksgiving off would just mean more students skip that whole week. The best option would be to arrange the calendar so that would be a full week off, even if we started earlier and/or went longer.

It is our civic duty to allow our students to vote in their home precinct.

That's a tough question!

I think most of us give the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off but if we do that then the students will leave on Tuesday.

I do not support Columbus Day as a holiday. If anything, it should become Indigenous Peoples' Day.

I do not support the Columbus Day holiday (unless the name is changed to "Indigenous Peoples" day or some such). I teach/ research the archaeology of the Americas.

Glorifying Columbus/ European colonization is problematic on so many levels.... Taking election day off seems unnecessary, given that the poll hours are so long (and I don't see most faculty/ students having troubles getting to polls). I am torn about the Wed before Thanksgiving. I like the idea, given that attendance is already so low. But, that no doubt leads to the slippery slope of students missing the entire week. No easy solution!

This ranking system privileges holidays at mid-semester that might provide students with time that might be used to manage the demands of increasing course loads (in the idealist's sense.) The mid-rankings 4-5 involve days that could be useful for faculty planning/adjustment perspectives.

I don't see how the first and final options bear on adding a day (they seem to cost us a day). A different question: would non-faculty staff get these days off too? If so, while I think for the students it would be best to get rid of the Wednesday before Thanksgiving

(many travel on that day), it seems the most civically responsible--and so overwhelmingly the best choice-- to have Election day off so that everyone can vote without missing a day of work.

no other comments

We have tried taking the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off- students took the entire week off and did not show up on Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday before Thanksgiving has already become a sparsely populated day for those instructors who still try to teach on that day. We should all have Election Day off, but I listed it last since it only takes place once every four years.

It's nice to have the same days off as our school-aged children, when possible.

This is a biased survey because it attempts to detract from the real issue which is whether the university should provide all students with the opportunity to participate in the presidential election. Why not have a survey that directly asks that question?

Is this meant to be in non-presidential election years as well? Eliminating finals on Saturdays is my highest priority as this would help students who rely on weekend work to make ends meet. Saturday is also the sabbath for Jews and some Christian denominations.

In my 25 years at URI, there has only been one year with the Weds before Thanksgiving with no classes. Classes on that Monday and Tuesday were very poorly attended.

EITHER have classes M-W, or have the whole week off

Have the first day of Rosh Hashana as a day off/or Yom Kippur

How about an extra day for classes?

I don't think we should be shortening the semester, and especially eliminating classes on the Monday schedule where it seems like most holidays are.

No point in having days off that are not state holidays also

I'd end the semester a day earlier on Friday. This effectively gives four reading days before the first exam. Thus in essence there would be three/four exam days (ThFS/S), two reading days (SS/M) and then the four/three exam remaining exams days (MTWTh/F) depending upon the year (with the last day used for the make up day). My concern with taking Wednesday off before Thanksgiving is students would take the full week off under the rationale they would only be missing 2 days of class; this rationale also applies to Columbus Day and Election Day which start to be used as 4-day weekends.

I tried to get the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off a few years ago when on the AS&CC. I teach at 9 AM on Wednesday and usually see only 50% attendance that day. I currently view that day as wasted.

The rationale for Election Day being off, is that students will interpret that as a sign from the university that voting is important, but we cannot assume that is the case.

Unfortunately many students just see it as a 4-day weekend (I teach Monday classes so

I can attest to that), or another reason to party. If it is decided to have Election Day off, then it is critical that URI emphasizes the importance of voting to assure that students see our rationale for the day off. For the majority of our students, this is their first time voting, and that value might not yet be instilled. If it is decided to not have Election Day off, then it is critical that URI educates our students about the importance and procedures of absentee voting. This is how I voted from the time I became 18 until I started my faculty position at URI, including 3 different states, and during my post-doc in The Netherlands. My vote counted just as much as votes from people who lived next door to the polling places. In life beyond URI, many of our students will not have the day off, and will have to find a way to vote. It is up to us to educate our students about the importance of carrying out their right to vote, and to find a way to do it no matter what circumstances might surround Election Day for them. The academic year under discussion (2022) is not a presidential campaign, yet the academic calendar for 2020 is a presidential campaign, and Election Day is not slated as being off. Perhaps that is a point of discussion too.

While I might personally like a different day off, I think it is important that the University encourage everyone - ESPECIALLY students to become active engaged citizens. The state offices are closed by law. I feel it is hypocritical to the students - and partially "illegal" to have faculty work - on election day.

I know why you're asking, and I know I'm supposed to say take election day off as #1, but I don't really feel that way. Honestly, I don't see a need to change the calendar at all. Election day is NOT a holiday in this country. My department teaches mostly online so this matters not a whit for our students. Perhaps other faculty could adapt their election day lesson plans to online for that week if they wish to give their students the time to go to the polls.

Number of daily responses

