

Resolution 2001-4. On the Academic Calendar

WHEREAS prior to a policy change by the Board of Governors in 1996, the academic calendar typically in use varied between 140 and 144 days; and

WHEREAS there have now been five years of experience with the current 150-day calendar; and

WHEREAS the 150-day calendar, when combined with the Summer School schedule, leaves very short periods of time between the end of Summer School and the opening of the school year, and also between the end of fall semester examinations and the opening of the spring semester; and

WHEREAS the need to return in mid-August has decreased the number of options in internships, summer work, and summer educational experiences open to our college students; and

WHEREAS the summer is the best and only concentrated time for our faculty to revise their courses and learn new teaching techniques, including those pertaining to instructional technology; and

WHEREAS the 150-day policy cuts into this time and may have an adverse effect upon the quality of instruction; and

WHEREAS the summer is also the best time for students and faculty to carry out research; and

WHEREAS our calendar does not correspond to that of Duke, thus discouraging inter-institutional collaboration and cross-registrations; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Faculty Council urges the President of The University of North Carolina to recommend to the Board of Governors that each constituent institution be allowed to set its own academic calendar, and

The Faculty Council urges the administration of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to seek to return to the 140 to 144 day period that was typical prior to the policy change in 1996, and

The Faculty Council calls upon the University-wide Faculty Assembly to help in the effort to change the current 150-day policy.