

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
OFFICE OF FACULTY GOVERNANCE

Resolution 97-7. On the Number of Class Days in the Academic Year

Whereas the normative number of instructional days is less than 140 in research universities most comparable to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the best four-year liberal arts schools, such as Michigan (138), Virginia (138), Duke (139), Davidson (139), Swarthmore (135), and Amherst (134); and

Whereas the number of instructional days at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has averaged 140.5 over the last 25 years; and

Whereas increasing the number of instructional days requires a shortened summer schedule that impedes the ability of our students to undertake funded research and other intellectual projects, as well as limits their ability to earn money for the upcoming year; and

Whereas the research and public service missions of the University may suffer from a lengthened class schedule and even the teaching mission may experience significant negative as well as positive impacts, such as a decreased ability to offer high quality summer school sessions; and

Whereas the faculty are seriously concerned about the potential impact of the recent increase in instructional days to 150, a change that makes our calendar longer than any of our peer institutions and that has not yet been fully evaluated; and

Whereas it is now proposed to increase the number of instructional days to 160; and

Whereas the faculty of the University have been entrusted for many years with the power "to determine the educational policies of the University and the rules and regulations under which administrators and faculty will conduct the educational activities of the University" [*Faculty Code*, Section II.H.(1)(a)]; and

Whereas the faculty of the University at Chapel Hill were not consulted before issuance of recent directives increasing the number of instructional days, now therefore

The Faculty Council resolves:

Section 1. The provisions of the *Faculty Code of University Government* that define for the faculty of the University a meaningful role in the determination of the educational policies of the University are reaffirmed.

Sec. 2. Any further increase in the number of instructional days in the academic year of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill should be delayed until appropriate consultation with the faculty has taken place and the effects of the pending increase to 150 instructional days have been evaluated.