

**Recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the IFC on the
Proposed Common Academic Calendar
February 2014**

The AAC evaluated the “Indiana University Proposal for Common Calendar” document plus other supporting documents. The AAC agrees there is considerable merit in a common calendar for IU but notes there are concerns that need to be addressed. One concern is that the proposed calendars presented to us cover only through 2021. We strongly recommend that the predictions be extended to 15 years to evaluate potential clashes around the Christmas holiday.

Another major concern is the proposal to initiate the common calendar for the Fall 2014 semester. We note that registration for Fall 2014 opens quite soon, on March 24, 2014. Moreover, a considerable amount of planning has already taken place by the IUPUI faculty, students, and administration for Fall 2014 using the existing calendar. Nevertheless, the AAC could support adoption of the “common” calendar for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 provided that the dates for the end of classes for those 2 semesters remain as currently specified for IUPUI. This will allow sufficient time to resolve significant issues regarding dates for the end of classes so that a truly common calendar could begin with the Fall 2015 semester.

IUPUI is currently operating under the following policy regarding the end of classes:

- The Fall Term will begin on a Monday to accommodate the Fall Break (Monday and Tuesday) scheduled in mid October. Thanksgiving break begins on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving and runs through Sunday of that week. Fall classes will end on a Monday to accommodate the Labor Day holiday (Monday).
- The Spring Term, which begins on a Monday, ends on a Monday to accommodate the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday (Monday).

This policy is possible because IUPUI has a proven system that accommodates finals in 4 days, beginning on Tuesday and end on Friday. Also, our current system ensures that each day of the week meets an equal number of times. Beginning finals on a Monday will obviously disrupt that. Therefore, changing the last day of classes will require discussion across campus and the action of the IFC to change the current policy. Additional issues that we need time to analyze and resolve are the effects of the changing the calendar on 8 week classes and the placement of fall break.

Lastly, the AAC notes the *IU Academic Handbook* in Section 6.1.2.2 on Faculty Authority states “The faculty has legislative authority to establish policy and determine procedures for its implementation governing the teaching, research, and service aspects of the University's academic mission. Areas within the faculty's legislative authority include: ... F. Class scheduling and academic calendar. ...”