

FACULTY SENATE

There will be a meeting of the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, December 9, 1969 at 4:00 p.m. in New Austin, Room 132.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Special Order of the Day
4. Unfinished Business
Quarter/Semester Calender Committee Report (See Attached)
5. Reports of Committees
 - A. Committee on Committees (See Attached)
 - B. Faculty Affairs Committee (See Attached)
 - C. University Curriculum Committee
 1. Report
 2. Summary of Objections to History 227 & 228

(NOTE: Any person(s) wishing to be heard by the Senate relative to History 227 and 228 are requested to contact the Chairman of the Faculty prior to December 9, 1969.)

A Report On Various Types
Of
Academic Calendars

by

The Faculty Senate
Calendar Study Committee

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Mr. Robert Woodside, Chairman
Dr. Frank Arwood
Dr. Donald F. Clemens
Dr. John B. Davis
Dr. Scott Garrow
Miss Gwendolyn Potter

December 2, 1969

REPORT OF THE QUARTER/SEMESTER CALENDAR STUDY COMMITTEE

I. Introduction

In December of 1968, the chairman of the Faculty Senate appointed a "committee to study the quarter, semester, and other divisions of the academic year." There are two main calendar systems used in the United States. The semester system is the most popular, with the quarter system second. The remaining calendar systems seem to be of equal popularity; these are the trimester system and the so-called 4-1-4 system. The semester, quarter, and trimester systems are considered in some detail in this report.

Since the 4-1-4 was not treated in detail perhaps a word here is in order. The 4-1-4 is essentially an attempt to eliminate the "lame-duck" session which occurs under the semester system (see Part III of this report). The system operates as follows. A semester of approximately 4 months duration is followed by a 1 month term which is to be used for independent research, "enrichment" studies, field trips, etc. Then the remaining semester runs for essentially 4 months.

There seems to be little factual material available concerning the 4-1-4, and all reports taken together do not form a strong case for or against the 4-1-4. Since this plan is a fairly radical departure for a school on the quarter system, it has been dismissed from consideration.

Sample calendars for each of the systems studied are given along with some pros and cons of each system. Many of the claimed pros and cons come directly from (1) and (3). Therefore, the pros and cons are not necessarily the feeling of the committee but merely strong or weak points which have been claimed for each system. By the same token, Section V. represents only the feelings of the committee.

II. The Quarter System

The quarter system should be familiar to everyone since the school operates under this plan. There are however, a few remarks that need to be made. It is often asserted that the quarter system is a southern or southeastern phenomenon; the facts are otherwise. Aside from California, about which we will say more in a moment, there are significant numbers of schools on the quarter system in Florida, Ohio, Montana, and Oregon. (This list is not intended to be exhaustive but to indicate that the quarter system is widespread.)

It has also been asserted that more schools switch from the semester system to the quarter system, than vice-versa. The evidence does present a weak case for this but is by no means conclusive. (See the section on the semester system.)

Finally, it would appear that the extra sessions involved in the quarter system would involve additional administrative costs. In this regard, however, it is interesting to note that the entire University of California (nine branches) was switched in 1966 to the quarter system with the prediction that "the change over from the 2-semester plan will have saved \$100 million in capital expenditures alone, by 1975." (6)

We include a sample quarter calendar used at East Carolina for purposes of comparison only. For simplicity we have ignored the six Saturdays involved in the summer sessions when counting total operating days and total teaching days for the year.

FALL QUARTER
1968 - 1969

	DAYS	TEACHING DAYS
September 9 - Opening date		
September 11 - Classes begin		
November 21 - Classes end		
November 27 - Exams end	56	51

WINTER QUARTER

December 2 - Registration		
December 3 - Classes begin		
December 20 - Christmas holidays begin		
January 6 - Classes resume		
February 27 - Classes end		
March 5 - Exams close	57	53

SPRING QUARTER

March 10 - Registration		
March 11 - Classes begin		
April 3 - Spring holidays begin		
April 9 - Classes resume		
May 26 - Classes end		
May 30 - Exams close	57	52

1ST. SUMMER SESSION

June 9 - Registration		
June 10 - Classes begin		
July 4 - Holiday		
July 15 - Classes end		
July 16 - Exams close	27	25