



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE
RIVERSIDE DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OFFICE BUILDING, RM 225

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May 19, 2025

Steven Cheung, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE: Systemwide Review of the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

Dear Steven,

The Riverside Senate Division addressed the [*APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*](#) and matters therein through a virtual town hall (attended by 200 members), followed by a division survey, along with the normal Senate consultative review process launched on February 27, 2025. This engagement culminated in discussion by the Riverside Executive Council on May 12, 2025. I write to provide the full feedback from UCR on this matter.

The UCR survey, completed by 251 members, revealed a strong preference for maintaining the status quo due to concerns about disruption, cost, negative impacts on student learning and faculty research, and a lack of clear rationale for the change. A summary of this survey is attached.

Twenty six Senate standing and faculty executive committees were tasked with review and the overwhelming consensus is one of strong opposition to a systemwide conversion from the quarter system to a semester system. The primary concerns raised across the reports center on the significant financial costs, increased workload and disruption for faculty, staff, and students, and the lack of clear, empirically-supported benefits to student success and faculty productivity. Several committees also express concern about the timing of this proposal given current budget cuts and other political and institutional challenges facing the University of California system. There is a perceived lack of transparency and sufficient faculty consultation in the process leading to this draft report.

1. Financial Costs and Budgetary Concerns:

- **High Conversion Costs:** Multiple committees highlight the substantial estimated costs of converting to a semester system, with figures cited from the report ranging from "\$288.62-370.96 M cost plus financing costs" and a campus-level estimate of "\$40-46 million."
- **Inappropriate Timing:** Given the "impending budget cuts faced by the University of California," "current budgetary cuts and uncertainty," and "looming existential threats to the UC system," committees universally agree that undertaking such a costly transition at this time is fiscally irresponsible.

- **Cost of Additional Labor and Lost Productivity:** Concerns are raised about the need for "additional compensation" for faculty and staff to handle the increased workload of curriculum revision and implementation. Furthermore, committees anticipate a "loss in productivity associated with diversifying workload within a fixed timeframe," as faculty and staff will be diverted from their normal duties.
- **Facilities Upgrades:** The cost estimates in the report are seen as potentially insufficient, lacking details on "what facility updates would be needed and these costs," particularly regarding infrastructure to handle increased energy consumption for cooling classrooms during a hotter fall semester start.

2. Faculty Workload and Impact on Research/Creative Activity:

- **Increased Teaching Assignments:** A major concern is that "It is unlikely that the number of courses per faculty will decrease under a semester-based system, likely resulting in decreased faculty research and creative activity outputs."
- **Loss of Flexibility for Research:** The quarter system allows for greater flexibility in scheduling teaching, such as "bunching" or "stacking" one's teaching schedule over the course of two quarters and freeing up time from teaching to allow for greater focus on research and writing." This flexibility would be lost in a semester system.
- **Difficulty in Taking Time Off:** Under the quarter system, it is "common for faculty to have a quarter off teaching," enabling "creative activities during the academic year." This is deemed "unlikely that faculty would have the opportunity to have a semester off teaching" in a semester system.
- **Curriculum Revision Burden:** Faculty will face an "immense impact on the work...as all courses and curriculum would need to be revised to fit a semester system," requiring "a large amount of funding and resources" and causing "undue burden to faculty and staff without mention of appropriate compensation, or consent."

3. Student Impact and Pedagogical Concerns:

- **Potential for Delayed Graduation and Increased Costs:** There is "evidence-based concern that students whose time to degree is increased during the transition period would ultimately pay more for their degrees/lose income due to later entry into the job market."
- **Higher Course Load and Dropout Rates:** With a semester system, "students will have a higher course load to complete program requirements, will also likely need extra time to graduate and will fall behind. This will likely lead to higher student dropout rates."
- **Loss of Breadth in Learning:** While semesters allow for "courses to engage a wider expanse of material with added depth," faculty and students often favor the quarter system for "the advantage of taking a broader range of classes" and the ability to "sample a broader range of material."
- **Transition Challenges for Existing Students:** "For three years or more, there would remain student cohorts who were admitted on the quarter system and would graduate with a combination of quarter and semester courses," creating complications for advising and graduation requirements.
- **No Clear Evidence of Improved Student Success:** Several committees note the lack of evidence that a semester system correlates to better student success or learning outcomes.

4. Lack of Transparency and Shared Governance:

- **Insufficient Faculty Consultation:** Concerns are raised about the lack of faculty consultation "prior to or after the survey was distributed." The process is described as "not been consistent with genuine shared governance with substantial faculty input."
- **Top-Down Initiative:** There is a strong perception that the proposed change is a "top-down mandate" from UCOP, which is "against the principles of shared governance, and the lack of transparency and initial consultation have made faculty suspicious about ulterior motives."
- **Missing Background Information:** The report is criticized for not providing sufficient "background information is provided about where this process originated and why it is presented at this time."

5. Questionable Benefits and Alternatives:

- **Limited Evidence for Stated Benefits:** Committees find "little evidence to support possible benefits of changing the calendar for students, faculty or administrators," particularly regarding improving the transfer student experience or gaining a "competitive advantage for summer experience."
- **Quarter System Advantages:** The quarter system is highlighted for its "faster-paced movement," allowing for a "broader range of classes," and greater flexibility for students to "temporarily withdraw in the advent of an emergency."
- **Alternative Solutions:** The possibility of a "more practical solution" like "slid[ing] the schedule of the quarters to align with the semester offerings" is suggested as a way to achieve some benefits without the disruptive effects of a full conversion. A "gradual onramp" approach over several years is also proposed.
- **Focus on More Pressing Issues:** Many committees feel that resources and attention should be directed towards addressing "more pressing demands," including "staff and faculty positions, support for graduate students who lost funding, bridge funding for research projects terminated," and dealing with "the politicization of academic research."

Additional Themes and Specific Concerns:

- **International Education:** While acknowledging some challenges for students studying abroad, committees believe "flexibility in arranging international study generally had worked to overcome these different calendars" and do not justify a calendar change.
- **University Extension:** Conversion would require adaptation of courses and programs, increasing resource needs, but would benefit visiting students from semester-based institutions.
- **Physical Resources:** Specific concerns about "Classroom temperatures during the summer months" and the need for "additional large classrooms" or "supplemental online modalities" are raised.
- **Information Technology:** The transition would require supplementing ITS staff and utilizing outside consultants.
- **Faculty Welfare:** Notes that aligning with CCs and CSUs could ease transfer for students, but this is not seen as outweighing the costs and disruptions.

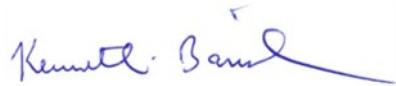
- **School of Medicine:** Notes that while their academic schedule is independent, the change would affect shared teaching space and does not see clear evidence of improved student experience or learning.
- **School of Public Policy:** Highlights the quarter system as a "recruitment advantage for UCR" due to its flexibility for faculty workload. Notes potential advantages for some in-depth courses in a semester system but emphasizes the loss of course variety.
- **School of Education:** Expresses concerns similar to others regarding time and practical costs, including increased energy costs due to a hotter fall start.
- **College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences:** Highlights the need for clarification on teaching loads, especially concerning advising and mentoring transfer students.
- **College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:** Calls for a report from UC administration detailing the origin and justification of the task force and addressing the power structures and consultation processes involved. Cites the lack of grounding in peer-reviewed research in the draft report.

Conclusion:

The feedback from the Riverside Division Academic Senate committees strongly opposes the proposed systemwide calendar conversion to a semester system. The committees find the potential benefits to be unclear and insufficiently supported by evidence, while the financial costs, workload implications, and disruptions to faculty, staff, and students are seen as significant and ill-timed given the current institutional context. The lack of transparency and perceived disregard for shared governance principles further contribute to the negative reception of the proposal. The overwhelming sentiment is that the existing quarter system, while not without its challenges, offers distinct advantages that would be lost in a conversion, and that resources should be focused on more pressing issues facing the University.

The Riverside Executive Council's robust discussion this week echoed the responses from their colleagues as summarized above and found in the attached committee response letters and summary document regarding the UCR divisional survey.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Barish

Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Monica Lin, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office

Attachments:

Committee Response Letters
UCR Common Calendar Survey Summary



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

April 24, 2024

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Quinn McFrederick, Chair
Committee on Academic Freedom

**Re: Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup
Draft Report**

The Committee on Academic Freedom reviewed the Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup draft report at their April 8, 2025 meeting on behalf of their charge of academic freedom. The Committee noted concern that the report did not address how faculty teaching assignments will be modified for the semester system. It is unlikely that the number of courses per faculty will decrease under a semester-based system, likely resulting in decreased faculty research and creative activity outputs. It is also unlikely that faculty would have the opportunity to have a semester off teaching, whereas it is common for faculty to have a quarter off teaching, which allows creative activities during the academic year. The Committee recognizes that peer semester-based institutions have devised methods to protect faculty time with relief from teaching during the academic year. We therefore recommend that this issue be considered by the System.



COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

May 2, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Jingsong Zhang, Chair
Committee on Academic Personnel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jingsong Zhang", written over the printed name.

Re: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

On Monday, April 28, 2025, the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) discussed the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report. As was the goal of the report, CAP assessed both the advantages and complications of moving from a quarter system calendar for the majority of University of California campuses for alignment with the two campuses (UC Berkeley and UC Merced) currently operating on the semester system.

The advantages and complications of a shift from the quarter system to the semester system (or vice-versa) are manifold. As made clear in the report, a shared calendar would prove advantageous for both faculty and students who may find themselves oscillating between two or more campuses or taking on internships which conflict with a term—in the case of campuses on the quarter system—that extends, for example, beyond the month of May.

With respect to instruction, the semester system allows for courses to engage a wider expanse of material with added depth as compared to quarters in which a ten-week term moves much too quickly. However, faculty and students often favor the quarter system for its faster-paced movement and the advantage of taking a broader range of classes. The quarter system also allows for students to temporarily withdraw in the advent of an emergency to then return earlier as opposed to waiting for the beginning of a new semester.

While recognizing the advantages of aligning the calendar among the campuses, several CAP members commented on the issue of the overhead for faculty to convert their teaching to a semester format and its likely substantial impact on faculty workload. Concerns were also expressed around the loss of flexibility in terms of scheduling teaching to create space for research (e.g., “bunching” or “stacking” one’s teaching schedule over the course of two quarters and freeing up time from teaching to allow for greater focus on research and writing). CAP viewed the proposal to slide the schedule of the quarters to align with the semester offerings as a more practical solution that can achieve some of the benefits of the proposed conversion while avoiding some of the most disruptive effects.

CAP's discussion, however, consistently returned to whether any kind of calendar conversion was a feasible endeavor at this particular moment given the impending budget cuts faced by the University of California. While there is much to be gained in aligning each campus in accord with the same academic calendar, the difficulties of making this a reality—particularly for those presently operating on the quarter system—may prove complicated with resources allocated for more pressing demands.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

April 22, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Stephen Kane, Vice Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

**Re: Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup
Draft Report**

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup draft report at their April 4, 2025 meeting. The Committee is not supportive of implementing a semester system at UCR. The Committee notes concern that the cost to transition from a quarter-based system to semesters would require a large amount of funding and resources. Specifically, the Committee noted that their workload would largely increase as all academic programs would need to propose changes to their curriculum as would the Academic Senate Committee on Courses, which would necessitate additional resources for the Committees to complete reviews of curriculum and course proposals. The Committee also questioned how a transition to semesters would help increase course availability and how student cohorts would transition from quarters to semesters.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

April 7, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Michele Salzman, Chair
Committee on International Education

Re: **[Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report**

The Committee on International Education reviewed the [Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report at their meeting held on April 3, 2025. There was a clear consensus that changing the calendar was not warranted at this time. Neither the benefits nor the costs were of sufficient merit to win support from the committee.

In fact, there was concern about both the timing of these proposed changes and their budgetary implications. Given the economic situation, any money spent would be better used to facilitate international education programs and the ability of students to undertake study abroad or at home.

The committee acknowledged that students in a quarter system who wanted to study abroad usually had to contend with negotiating dates and credits, but flexibility in arranging international study generally had worked to overcome these different calendars. Again, all agreed, that increased flexibility would allow such coordination and that even these challenges did not merit changing the academic calendar from quarters to semesters.

Even though some saw advantages to a longer period of study in the semester system, as did one graduate student representative, this view was not universal. Many felt that shorter classes allowed for more subjects to be studied and more intense bursts of study. Again, even those who valued a longer period of study in the semester did not feel that this justified changing the present quarter system.

Finally, it was noted that FLEAP programs that occur during summer sessions B may not allow students on semesters to enroll. But there is no indication if those courses would be of interest. Nor were these of sufficient value to justify changing the calendar.

To repeat, there were not enough benefits to justify a costly and disruptive change as represented by the new calendars.



COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

April 30, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sean Cutler, Chair
Committee on Committees

**Re: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar
Workgroup Draft Report**


The Committee on Committees (CoC) discussed the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report at their April 24, 2025 meeting. Members were not in favor of a common calendar or moving to a semester system. Members argued that a semester system will amount to a considerable expense to campuses and will include a lot of time and energy for faculty, as well as a potential (and arguably likely) increase in faculty teaching loads. Given the current budget crisis UC is facing, as well as all the political challenges and pressures we are dealing with, the timing of this discussion is unfortunate. Some members mentioned that the climate in Riverside in August through late September is not conducive in many respects for the fall semester starting in August, which would also create an increase in energy costs. Members agreed that the quarter system allows for more time for faculty to do research. Members were puzzled by the argument to move toward a semester system because the sources cited in the report associated a semester system with worse academic results for students. CoC would like to see evidence that supports a semester system correlating to better student success. CoC was also concerned that faculty were not consulted prior to or after the survey was distributed. It seems it would have made more sense to ask for faculty input before the survey was distributed, or after the survey results were compiled and distributed so that the survey responses could be considered in committee and faculty discussions. The whole process has not been consistent with genuine shared governance with substantial faculty input.



COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

May 2, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Gareth Funning, Chair 
Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Re: **[Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar
Workgroup Draft Report**

The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CODEI) has reviewed the above proposal and notes several points of concern. Generally among faculty, this proposed change is not well received and represents a hasty departure from the principles of shared Governance. In addition to being ill-timed and a strain on current University resources, this plan would cause undue burden to faculty and staff without mention of appropriate compensation, or consent. The committee is concerned with the apparent lack of empirical data addressing immediate and future potential impacts of this massive transitional undertaking, or tracking of faculty, staff and student opinions within this proposal. Moreover, within this proposal, UCOP administration and the UC Regents' orientation is bereft of collaborative Senate input and influence and thereby is lacking the necessary engagement for an initiative such as this to be a worthwhile investment.

As a recommendation, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion imparts the imperative nature of affirming a posture of joint decision-making between, non-Senate faculty, staff, students, and importantly, Senate sentiment on this issue.



Academic Senate

Committee on Research

March 25, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Rachel Wu, Chair
Committee on Research

Re: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The committee on research reviewed the report and agreed that given the financial challenges systemwide and discussion from the systemwide committee on research that the common calendar proposal likely will not be pursued.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON COURSES

May 2, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Erin Rankin, Chair
Committee on Courses

**Re: Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup
Draft Report**

The Committee on Courses reviewed the Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup draft report at their April 24, 2025 meeting. The Committee noted concern that a proposed change to a semester system would have an immense impact on the work of the Committee and department course preparers as all courses and curriculum would need to be revised to fit a semester system. Additionally, the Committee noted that the cost of such a transition would not be prudent with the current impact to the Division's budget.

FACULTY WELFARE

April 30, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Salman Asif, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salman Asif".

RE: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*

The Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) reviewed the *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*. CFW has the following comments:

The committee acknowledges that in the long run, the benefits of synchronizing calendars among the UCs could outweigh the costs. More specifically, moving to a semester system compared to a quarter system would match California's CCs and CSUs schedules. This could make transferring easier for students from a CC to a UC.

There was general agreement among the CFW members that the workload involving the transition will be too substantial at a time when we are facing unprecedented stress from the politicization of academic research. Perhaps, the workgroup could propose a 4 to 8-year timeline/plan on how to implement these changes little by little. For example, in the first year, universities could focus on simply matching their academic years' start and end dates, which would be relatively easy. Then, in subsequent years, UC campuses may start implementing the two-week winter period and adjusting all holidays and breaks. Then, finally, we could switch to a common calendar, which could be more aligned with CCs and CSUs in California. This gradual onramp would give faculty enough time to prepare to teach longer courses and add additional material to their already existing 10-week courses.

The committee also observes that the quarter system is beneficial in terms of pedagogy. This is especially true for upper division courses, where students can get a broader perspective by taking 50% more courses. A serious in-depth coverage of just about any field takes more than 15 weeks, anyway. Having 3 upper division courses per year as opposed to 2 gives students a better opportunity to sample a broader range of material. The quarter system also helps students to make up courses in which they do poorly while staying on track to graduate on time. Students can take a greater breadth of courses, more efficiently switch majors, and

accelerate their time to graduation if needed. Student attention spans are more well suited to the 10-week course timeline.

The quarter system is infinitely more flexible for faculty as well. Faculty can take brief one-quarter sabbaticals to focus intensively on research with minimal disruption to teaching/service. Teaching can also be more easily balanced with research activities (e.g., avoiding teaching during a field season or taking on a double teaching load in one quarter and freeing up the rest).

Finally, the committee feels that in coming years the faculty will not be able to devote any time to changing to a semester system when we are facing a dismantling of our research programs and federal funding entities. Beyond pedagogical arguments (which are solid), this makes the switch nearly impossible. Financial burden and personnel disruption alone does not justify the change at this time.



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

April 21, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Viji Santhakumar, Chair
Graduate Council

Re: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report at their April 17, 2025 meeting. Council members were not in favor of all campuses changing to the semester system. At UCR, there is no space or capacity to accommodate this type of change. It is a costly change without any promise of adequate resources to support it. With this change, students will have a higher course load to complete program requirements, will also likely need extra time to graduate and will fall behind. This will likely lead to higher student dropout rates. This proposed change also drastically increases faculty workload and teaching hours without compensation, which may lead to even higher faculty turnover and personnel changes. This will also have an environmental cost for UCR due to expanded classroom cooling needs in summer.



Academic Senate

Committee on Information Technology

May 2, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Ilya Brookwell, Chair
Committee on Information Technology

Re: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The committee discussed the proposed workgroup draft and had a few comments. One comment is regarding the total expense of the transition and if this is the best time to pursue such an expensive change. Additionally, it would require ITS staff to be supplemented and outside consultants to help offset their overall workload. Overall, the committee felt like this is not the right time to consider these changes.



Academic Senate

May 2, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Curt Burgess, Chair
Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication

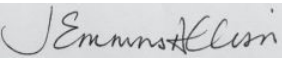
Re: 24-25. SR. Community Input on Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The committee reviewed the report and had no comments at this time.

PLANNING AND BUDGET

May 1, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Juliann Allison, Chair 
Committee on Planning and Budget

RE: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*. CPB has the following comments:

- Given the committee's charge to address budgetary matters, we call attention to the "appropriate investment of time and support for faculty and staff" required for semester conversion noted on page 10. The \$288.62-370.96 M cost plus financing costs noted on page 12 are significant. Without numbers on what facility updates would be needed and these costs, it is challenging to get a whole picture of the total cost but clear that it is significant. With current budgetary cuts and uncertainty, it is a particularly inappropriate time to undertake such a cost.
- Additional educational costs/loss of postgraduate income for students associated with delays in degree completion: There is evidence-based concern that students whose time to degree is increased during the transition period would ultimately pay more for their degrees/lose income due to later entry into the job market.
- Cost of compensation for additional labor: There is concern about the budgetary impact of such a calendar change and the additional labor it will require. Additional compensation would be required for faculty and staff to implement this proposed calendar change. There should be a thorough analysis of what these costs will be.
- Cost of lost productivity associated with additional labor: Even if faculty and staff are fairly compensated to implement the calendar change (including revising every single class, major, and program, and all the consequent discussion and approvals), there is concern that faculty and staff will not have time to accomplish the necessary work as funding will not create more hours in the day to do work beyond one's normal (high) load. We expect an overall loss in productivity associated with diversifying workload within a fixed timeframe.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGE & TENURE

May 2, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

Fr: Louis Santiago, Professor and Chair *Louis Santiago*
Committee on Privilege & Tenure

Re: **[Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar
Workgroup Draft Report**

The Committee on Privilege and Tenure reviewed the draft report of the Academic Calendar Workgroup, and had the following comments:

Given the estimated cost of the conversion (estimated at \$40-46 million) and the potential for significant budget cuts (8+ %), the Committee believes this is not a reasonable time to discuss this proposal from a budgetary perspective. Rather, any new funding should be spent on staff and faculty positions, support for graduate students who lost funding, bridge funding for research projects terminated, etc.

A main concern is that the report did not address how faculty teaching assignments will be modified for the semester system. It is unlikely that the number of courses per faculty will decrease under a semester-based system, likely resulting in decreased faculty research and creative activity outputs. It is common now for faculty to have one of three quarters free of teaching during the academic year, whereas it is unlikely that faculty would have the opportunity to have a semester off teaching. This would result in no periods of pure creative activities during the academic year and ultimately a reduction in publications and grant funding.

Team teaching is not a solution because even if a faculty member is not lecturing for a given week or several weeks, things come up in a course and it is impossible to completely disconnect. Stacking multiple courses into a long semester is also not a solution because faculty would be so burnt out after that, it would take half of the next semester of no teaching to recover.

Peer institutions have developed solutions for this, such as by offering half-semester courses or by reducing the number of courses faculty teach to allow for actual semesters free of teaching. Without this, UC Riverside would begin to resemble a Cal State.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

May 5, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Jianzhong Wu, Chair
Committee on Preparatory Education

Re: **[Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar
Workgroup Draft Report**

The Committee on Preparatory Education (CPE) reviewed the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup's Draft Report at our meeting held on May 5, 2025, and are not in support of changing from quarters to semesters and deem it would be a poor use of the increasingly limited funds. Another disadvantage of moving to semesters is that students currently have 3 quarters to satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). Moving to semesters, students would be limited to 2 semesters to satisfy the ELWR.



Academic Senate

PHYSICAL RESOURCES PLANNING

April 30, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Watkins, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

From: Brian Siana, Physical Resources Planning Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Siana", is placed over a rectangular area.

Re: [Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The Physical Resources Planning Committee (PRP) reviewed the March 2025 *[Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report* document that proposes options and opportunities for changing the UC calendar for consistency across the system. PRP appreciates the work done by the workgroup to collect, present, and evaluate pros and cons of a common calendar. Nevertheless, the committee notes several points of concern with the proposal as it stands:

- Classroom temperatures during the summer months present a significant challenge for the UCR campus. They also bring up questions regarding facilities: Is infrastructure on campus (grid connection capacity, central plant chillers, distribution, etc.) capable of maintaining temperatures in all spaces during peak heat events in August and September? If inadequate, significant cost would be associated with infrastructure upgrades and increased energy consumption to maintain instruction.
- As noted in the draft report, the need for additional large classrooms (or supplemental online modalities, or delayed student degree progression) would require the addition of these classrooms before the transition to semester systems to maintain the current quality of education. This cost would also need to be factored into the total cost of transition for the UCR campus and the UC system at large.
- The fiscal uncertainty facing the UC system creates an environment in which the discussion of undertaking a voluntary transition of this financial magnitude is inappropriate.
- With the looming existential threats to the UC system, current approximations serve to “divert attention from UC Leadership, faculty, and staff from addressing other issues,” and do not adequately address undue burden to faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, the benefits of this transition do not clearly outweigh the costs and challenges presented.




Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

Date: April 30, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Kathleen Montgomery 
Chair, Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

RE: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has carefully considered the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report. The Committee appreciates this review is meant to provide Divisions of the University of California with the preliminary draft report from the APC Workgroup. While R&J has no formal response to the substantive advantages and disadvantages to the move to a common UC calendar, the committee notes that the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report contains several omissions that we recommend be included before a final report is prepared and sent for deliberation by all parties.

Suggested inclusions:

1. Page 1 describes the Academic Planning Group established by Provost Newman and Senate Chair Cheung, but no background information is provided about where this process originated and why it is presented at this time.
2. The statement on p. 11 that “State legislators will likely support...” is made without foundation. Further, on that same page is the comment that “The Governor’s Office and Legislature would likely support efforts...to operate on the same calendar.” Yet these statements of “likely support” need to be accompanied by concrete estimates of State support to the University to cover the costs of conversion.
3. While the report provides estimates of the conversion costs at the campus and system level (p. 12), no estimates are given for the workload burdens — financial and otherwise — at the department level, and for faculty and staff. There also is no discussion about faculty retention if a conversion were to go forward.

Lastly, R&J notes with grave concern that undertaking such a conversion in the current political

climate seems unwise, with profound uncertainty about future University funding from the Federal Government. This emerging issue requires much more attention in subsequent versions of the report.




Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

April 28, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Peter M. Sadler, Chair 
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: **[Systemwide Review] (Report Review) APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report**

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions (UAC) reviewed the APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup's Draft Report at our meeting held on March 21, 2025. UAC found it to be a thoughtful account of arguments for and against transitioning to a semester calendar. Members were most concerned about the workload of transition that would fall upon faculty and staff. UAC also realizes that there are faculty members with no first-hand experience of semester courses, neither as instructors, nor as students. It is not clear that there will be sufficient benefits to justify the enormous upheaval of transitioning to semesters.

Not only would instructors need to redesign all lectures, labs and field sections to fit a 15-week format, but the general catalog and course registration systems would require extensive revision. New course numbering and descriptions would burden the approval process for new courses and for new graduation requirement statements across all majors and minors. For three years or more, there would remain student cohorts who were admitted on the quarter system and would graduate with a combination of quarter and semester courses. To graduate according to either catalog would require counselors and deans to approve individual variances.

The Draft Report explains that in 1966 the UC system switched from semesters to quarters to accommodate the large "baby boom" generation. Now UCR is planning for more growth. The 1966 motivation would suggest that this is the wrong time to transition back to semesters. The Draft Report recommends not transitioning when there are other stresses. Wouldn't the current White House treatment of university funding be a concurrent stress? Also, UAC members shared that faculty are currently struggling to educate the "anxious generation" (Haidt, 2024) of students, which has a high rate of mental health problems. The Draft Report indicates that even the prospect of transition is already adding to anxiety among faculty members.

UAC hears the argument that alignment with CSU and Community College semester calendars will allow smoother and faster transfer admissions. A counterargument is the known pedagogic value of gaps in coursework for students to pursue other intellectual activities. Haidt's (2024) book

recommends a gap year between high-school and college, for example. A comparable stress might apply to adjusting to new levels of instructors' expectations after transferring to a UC campus. Short gaps would likely be beneficial there too.

There are pedagogical arguments in favor of 15-week semester courses instead of shorter 10-week quarter courses. Fifteen weeks allow more time for term paper assignments, for example. UAC notes, however, that UCR Summer Sessions chooses to run 5-week courses. Semester-based UC campuses choose to split some 15-week terms into 7-week parts ("minimesters"). Longer terms mean fewer administrative restarts in a year. Shorter terms allow students to experience more faculty. Would the proposed statewide, semester-aligned calendars mostly appeal to a bureaucratic preference for simplicity and uniformity? The Draft Report appears to be a response to an administrator's initiative, but it indicates options for aligning calendars across semester- and quarter-based campuses. How should we balance pedagogic and bureaucratic advantages? It would seem to be less stressful to realign starting dates than to change the course durations.

Reference

Haidt, J., 2024. *The anxious generation: How the great rewiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness*. Penguin Press, ISBN 9780593655030 (hardcover) ISBN 9780593655047 (ebook).



COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

April 23, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Vagelis Papalexakis, Chair
Committee on University Extension

**Re: Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar
Workgroup Draft Report**

The Committee on University Extension reviewed the Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup draft report at their April 2, 2025 meeting. The Committee notes that the proposed change to a semester system would present challenges to University Extension as their courses and programs would need to be adapted from the quarter system to a semester system, which would require an increase of resources and funding. However, the Committee notes that University Extension students visiting from semester-based institutions would benefit from a conversion to semesters.

March 17, 2025

To: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Elodie Goodman
Chair, School of Business Executive Committee

Re: Report Review: *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*

Please let this memo serve as an official notification that the School of Business Executive Committee reviewed the report and noted several concerns with the considered move to a semester-based system. We found little evidence to support possible benefits of changing the calendar for students, faculty or administrators. Statements such as, “improve the transfer student experience” were included, but without supporting evidence of what or how improvement would occur. There is no evidence provided that students learn more (or even the same total) under the semester system. We did not find evidence that the May end date provides “a more competitive advantage for summer experience.” It is possible, but there no evidence (other than staff suggesting it—which is not evidence).

Furthermore, it seems that the move to a semester system would increase the need for large classes. In addition to the facilities problems that are pointed out in the report, it will be important to understand the impact of offering more large-enrollment classes on student learning and engagement.

Given the lack of evidence for strong benefits, and given the evidence of significant costs (in terms of financial impact, short-term impacts on student success, faculty and staff time, workload and stress), in our opinion the case is not made for making this change, particularly at this time.

The alternate quarter option with a break in the middle of the winter quarter has no clear benefits and has costs. Schools widely turned away from that option because it hurts students’ learning and success to go home for the holidays and then come back to campus to finish the term and take exams.

One small suggestion would be to start the Fall quarter on Wednesday (instead of Thursday) and give three days off for Thanksgiving, aligning with the UC semester schools and alleviating some of the problems with the Thanksgiving week in terms of students' desire to travel on the Wednesday and faculty challenges in terms of what to do during classes on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving.



May 1, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Wesley Leonard, Chair 
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The CHASS Executive Committee extensively reviewed the Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report, and **we follow the majority of faculty we represent in strongly opposing a calendar change, especially during a UC-wide hiring freeze**. We are aware that many reasons for opposing a change, such as the adverse effects on faculty and UCR's lack of the needed financial and infrastructural (e.g., classroom) resources, have already been expressed through multiple avenues. We agree with those who have raised such concerns, and therefore focus this memo on broader themes the Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report raises, for which we would like to go on record.

We note that there is technically no actual proposal to change the calendar. We, instead, are opining on an "information gathering exercise" by an ad hoc UCOP workgroup that provided a report exploring possibilities of various common calendars and their pros and cons.

However, the message that has actually come through to faculty about this report, and which has contributed to a demoralized climate in CHASS, and anger toward the administration, has largely been that 1) there is unofficially a proposal by UCOP for all general campus UCs to adopt a common calendar and 2) that this common calendar will be semester-based, thus requiring a change by UCR. We believe that UCR's Senate, in addition to advocating for UCR's needs (which at the moment we believe point to maintaining the quarter system), should engage *why* this task force was put together and how what officially is an "information gathering exercise" came to be interpreted as a UCOP proposal that is a "done deal." In particular we call on UCR's Senate to focus on addressing power structures and consultation processes (or missing processes) that may have led to this eventuality.

Furthermore, aside from a 2019 study by Bostwick et al., the report lacks sufficient grounding in peer reviewed research on semester versus quarter systems and their effects on student success and faculty workload. Any information gathering exercise by university personnel must be grounded in research and faculty expertise. This report does not meet this standard.

We also understand there is a history that is not addressed in the report: that UCOP unilaterally promoted adoption of a common calendar, to which the system-wide Senate pushed back and demanded a consultative process – hence the report we are opining on now.

This idea that the move toward a common calendar is a top-down mandate, which has circulated in CHASS discussions, is against the principles of shared governance, and the lack of transparency and initial consultation have made faculty suspicious about ulterior motives. Second, we emphasize that something like a calendar conversion for a large state university system, such as the UC, is a *very big deal*, not a point for which an ad hoc workgroup should be convened because “[r]ecent discussions about ways UC can improve its student experience and support postgraduate outcomes have raised questions about returning to a common calendar.”

We are requesting a report from the UC administration that:

- details the broader background into how and why this task force was initiated
- provides concrete, empirical examples of what these “raised questions” are, where they stem from, and why the potential move to a common calendar was the proposed solution, and why such significant changes are being proposed at this moment in time

As a more general point, and in the spirit of shared governance, we believe that any time a high-level administrator pursues an initiative like this, they must write a report that is well-documented, thorough, and transparent. Furthermore, we believe that any time a hiring freeze is implemented, any such large, costly structural changes to the UC system must also be placed on hold, given the realities of budget constraints and increased workload of existing faculty and staff to implement such changes.



April 30th, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

Prof. Barish,

The recent discussion regarding semester memos and surveys distributed by UCOP (University of California Office of the President) has highlighted key considerations in the complex transition to a semester system. These discussions, including the need for further clarification on teaching loads, particularly concerning the additional time required to advise and mentor transfer students and the comparative flexibility (or constraints) of quarter versus semester systems, have the potential to significantly impact our academic community.

The committee will receive the task force's survey link and relevant contact information to ensure all concerns are addressed. This will allow members to submit any essential questions they believe should be raised during further discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Tom". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "H" and "T".

Harry Tom, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



4/1/25

To: Kenneth Barish, Division Chair of the UCR Division of the Academic Senate and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Katherine Meltzoff, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

Subject: Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the Community Input on Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report. Comments/feedback were solicited at our executive committee meeting and via email.

There are concerns from members of the SOE FEC about the proposal to switch to a common calendar. Reasons for this are similar to those raised by others on campus and include: Time costs to switch (e.g. how are instructors expected to switch their courses without any reimbursement or relief from teaching?), and practical costs (e.g. in locations where it is extremely hot during late summer months, having the academic year start in August would likely lead to higher campus costs to run air conditioning).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Katherine Meltzoff
Faculty Executive Committee Chair
School of Education
University of California, Riverside

April 28, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **[Systemwide Review]** Report Review: *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*

Dear Ken,

The Committee reviewed the Report Review: *APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report*.

The FEC would like to state that the policy pertains primarily to the undergrad student population and impacts them. While the School of Medicine is a professional school with an independent academic schedule, the calendaring change will affect teaching space allocated for various programs, including in locations important to the educational function of the School of Medicine.

In addition, the report doesn't provide clear evidence that a change from quarters to semesters will improve the students' experience and learning. However, the implementation of the change would generate significantly more work for instructors and administration, and significant expenses. Together with the challenges the university faces currently, a calendaring change seems an unfavorable option.

Therefore, a thorough discussion needs be considering the potential risks and benefits before any decision to change calendaring.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Kaul, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

TO: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Richard M. Carpiano, Chair
Senate Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: [Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup
Draft Report

Date: May 5, 2025

The School of Public Policy (SPP) Senate Executive Committee reviewed the document “[Systemwide Review] Report Review: APC Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report.”

Overall, it is unclear why such a drastic and extremely costly idea would even be pursued by the System Provost, Office of the President, and any other party/parties at the present time given the many, far more pressing political, legal, and financial challenges facing the UC system and its individual campuses in terms of federal executive orders and the state budget.

We submit the following comments that pertain to the impacts of the policy for the UC system, the UCR campus, and SPP.

We appreciate the extent of detail and cost estimations of different scenarios provided in the report. However, from the standpoint of a common tool in Public Policy analysis—cost-benefit analysis—the short- and long-term benefits do not come close to the immediate and enduring costs for this initiative. Furthermore, the cost estimations, while heavily focused on technological costs of such a transition to semesters, do not sufficiently consider the monetary and non-monetary costs that will be incurred by faculty, staff, and even students with such a transition. The justifications for undertaking this highly expensive endeavor (which, despite the different scenarios presented, realistically, seem to favor converting seven campuses to be like Berkeley and Merced’s semester system) are insufficient to justify such tremendous direct costs and diverting scarce funds towards this standardization endeavor. Thus, such a proposal seems more like a proposed solution in search of a problem. As such, we believe that the old adage holds: “If it is not broken, don’t fix it.”

More specifically, we raise the following issues:

1. **The existing quarter system offers a recruitment advantage for UCR.** Conversion to a semester-based calendar would risk losing our recruiting advantage. The quarter system

allows consolidation of teaching responsibilities into two quarters (20 weeks) rather than two semesters (30 weeks). In a market where the University of California has historically paid faculty less than peer institutions as outlined in previous UCOP reports, including most recently the [2025-26 University of California Budget for Current Operations](#), this workload recruiting advantage has been of critical importance to UCR overall and SPP specifically.

2. **Transition from the current quarter system to a semester system has significant tradeoffs.** The semester system has some advantages and disadvantages. For example:
 - a. Regarding curriculum covered:
 - i. Pro: in SPP, a semester-based system could offer some advantages for specific classes such as research methods classes, allowing instructors additional time to cover subjects more comprehensively.
 - ii. Con: transitioning to semesters would undermine the educational experience we offer students, reducing the variety of courses offered/that students could take while pursuing their degree. In our B.A. and Master of Public Policy programs, the quarter system allows students a broader exposure to a variety of both instructors and course topics/materials.
 - b. Regarding internships:
 - i. Pro: students with summer internships may benefit from an earlier summer conclusion to courses
 - ii. Con: this same advantage could potentially be achieved through the alternate quarter calendar, as outlined in the report
3. **Classroom Space Constraints due to a transition to the semester system.** As the draft findings indicate, a transition to semesters will increase the need for large classrooms. SPP offers several lower-division undergraduate courses that use these classrooms and relies in part on these large sections to sustain its operations. Given current space limitations on our campus, a change to semesters would negatively impact our ability to offer large classes. For our campus, this would mean the need to invest in building construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard M. Carpiano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being the most prominent.

Richard M. Carpiano, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Public Policy

Review of UCR Senate Faculty Survey Feedback on Proposed UC Calendar Changes

May 2025

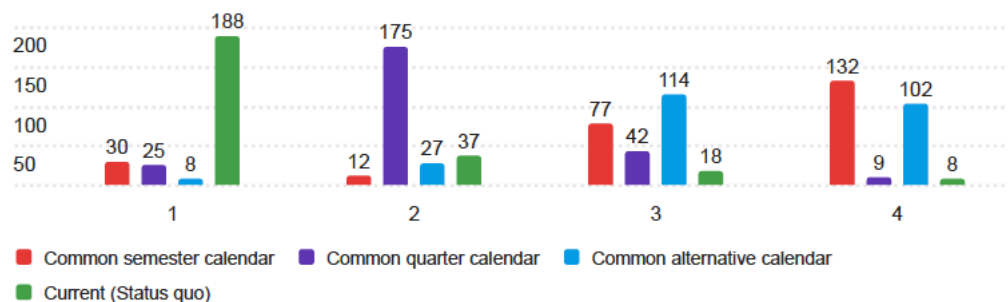
Background: All UCR Senate faculty were invited to complete a survey and poll regarding Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup's draft report and interest in making a calendaring change. The survey and poll was open from April 28 to May 7, 2025, during which 251 faculty responded. The complete survey responses can be found [here](#).

Summary:

The responses from the survey reveal a strong preference for maintaining the status quo due to concerns about disruption, cost, negative impacts on student learning and faculty research, and a lack of clear rationale for the change. While a minority (10% in today's environment, 20% if resources were not an issue) of respondents expressed openness to a semester system, the overwhelming sentiment highlights significant opposition to any calendar conversion, particularly given current financial uncertainties and the perceived lack of demonstrated benefits.

Poll Questions Results:

Q6. Please rank your preference from among the four named scenarios in the report



Q7. In today's environment, would you be in favor of changing from UCR's current quarter calendar to a semester calendar?

Yes	10%	24
No	90%	227

Q8. If resources were not an issue, would you be in favor of such a change (either to a semester or an alternative calendar)?

Yes	20%	51
No	80%	200

Key Takeaways for Survey and Poll Questions

1. Overwhelming Preference for the Status Quo:

- The survey results indicate a strong preference for the current quarter calendar. In Q6, a significant majority ranked the current status quo as their first or second preference among the four scenarios presented.
- Q7 explicitly asked if respondents were in favor of changing to a semester calendar in today's environment, and the "No" responses vastly outnumbered the "Yes" responses (227 vs. 24).
- Even when resources were hypothetical not an issue (Q8), opposition remained high, though slightly less pronounced (200 "No" vs. 51 "Yes"). This suggests that the concerns extend beyond just financial considerations.

2. Significant Concerns Regarding Costs and Resources:

- A major theme is the perceived high cost of transitioning to a different calendar, particularly to a semester system. This includes not only financial costs but also the immense time and effort required from faculty and staff.
- Respondents repeatedly expressed concerns about the financial constraints currently facing the UC system and the state, deeming this an inopportune time for a costly overhaul.

3. Negative Impact on Student Learning and Success:

- Many respondents believe that a semester system would negatively impact student learning and success, particularly for UCR's diverse student body, including first-generation, transfer, and working students.
- Concerns were raised about reduced course flexibility, limited course access, hinderance to academic recovery, and potential delays in graduation rates.
- The quarter system is seen as providing flexibility for students balancing work, family responsibilities, and commuting.
- Research is cited suggesting detrimental effects on student learning in shifts to semester calendars and a potential decrease in on-time graduation rates.

4. Detrimental Effects on Faculty Research Productivity:

- A significant concern, particularly among STEM and research-intensive faculty, is the potential negative impact on research productivity.
- The quarter system is seen as allowing for dedicated research time between quarters or through course "bunching."
- A move to semesters is perceived as leading to a net increase in teaching load and a reduction in research time, potentially affecting the ability to secure grants and impacting faculty recruitment and retention.

5. Lack of Clear and Compelling Rationale for Change:

- Many respondents felt that the provided report and the overall initiative lacked a clear and compelling justification for such a significant change.
- The supposed benefits, such as aligning with other institutions or improving internship opportunities, were questioned and seen as minor compared to the disruption and costs.
- There is a sentiment that this is a "solution looking for a problem" and a "forced issue" originating from outside UCR's specific needs.

6. Concerns about Implementation and Disruption:

- The practical challenges of implementing a calendar change were highlighted, including the massive undertaking of redesigning all courses and curriculum.
- Concerns were raised about potential bottlenecks in course offerings, difficulties for continuing students during the transition, and the strain on undersized staff.

7. Climate and Environmental Considerations:

- The hot climate in Riverside, particularly in August and September, was raised as a significant concern regarding starting the academic year earlier under a semester system.
- This was seen as potentially impacting student focus and straining campus infrastructure and energy consumption.

8. Questioning the Motivation and Process:

- Some respondents questioned the underlying motivation for the change, suggesting it might be driven by external pressures or a desire for uniformity rather than genuine educational benefit.
- Concerns were raised about the perceived lack of meaningful faculty consultation from the outset.

9. Faculty Workload and Retention Concerns:

- Faculty expressed concerns about increased workload, particularly for teaching professors and those who currently benefit from course "bunching."
- Some indicated that a move to a semester system would make them seriously reconsider staying at UCR, highlighting the quarter system as a recruitment and retention tool.

10. Limited Support for Alternative Calendars:

- While alternative calendars were presented, there was limited enthusiasm for these options.
- Concerns were raised about specific aspects of the proposed alternative quarter calendar, such as breaks in the middle of quarters.

Conclusion:

The feedback strongly indicates that UC Riverside faculty are overwhelmingly opposed to a calendar conversion. The concerns are multifaceted and deeply rooted in the perceived negative impacts on student learning, faculty research, and the immense costs and disruption involved. The lack of a clear, data-driven rationale for the change further fuels the opposition. The current financial climate and the unique characteristics of the UCR campus, such as its climate and student demographics, are significant factors in the strong preference for maintaining the existing quarter system. Any future consideration of calendar change would need to address these

concerns comprehensively, provide compelling evidence of benefits outweighing the costs and disruption, and involve extensive and meaningful consultation.

Survey Questions:

1. What is your college or school? (Based on home department).
2. Please indicate what best describes you. (faculty rank, etc)
3. What are your thoughts on the substance of the report, which provides an analysis of different calendaring options? Are there elements missing from the report?
4. How will a calendar change impact UCR student learning?
5. How will a calendar change impact UCR faculty?
6. Please rank your preference from among the four named scenarios in the report. [1 most preferred / 4 = least preferred]
7. In today's environment, would you be in favor of changing from UCR's current quarter calendar to a semester calendar?
8. If resources were not an issue, would you be in favor of such a change (either to a semester or an alternative calendar)?
9. What other information would you like to share?