

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 7-001

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED 2020-2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
AND FUTURE ACADEMIC CALENDARS STARTING BEFORE LABOR DAY**

WHEREAS, At the University of Michigan, the fall academic term traditionally begins after Labor Day¹; **AND**

WHEREAS, this delayed start has led to a fall term which has ended as late as December 23rd in the recent past; **AND**

WHEREAS, this delayed ending has been cited to be stressful and financially difficult for students, as, for example, out of state students must book flights during one of the most expensive times of the year^{2,3} **AND**

WHEREAS, this delayed conclusion of the term also infringes upon faculty, as they are rushed to submit grades before the semester ends⁴; **AND**

WHEREAS, only five of the fourteen Big Ten Universities, including the University of Michigan, begin their Fall academic terms after Labor Day⁵; **AND**

WHEREAS, due to Labor Day in 2020 falling on September 7th, and the University being unable to cut any days of classes due to the decennial accreditation review⁶, if the Fall 2020 term academic calendar is constructed as usual, then the final examination period will go through December 24th; **AND**

WHEREAS, individuals working as departmental staff or in the Office of the Registrar will be forced to work up to three days past the exam period, or through December 27th; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Office of the Registrar sent out a proposed academic calendar for the 2020-2021 academic year for approval from the University of Michigan Board of Regents, which has the University's fall academic term shift to begin

¹ University of Michigan - Ann Arbor Academic Calendars
<http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/>

² <https://www.michigandaily.com/news/upetition-calls-changed-vacation-dates>

³ <https://www.cheapair.com/blog/the-most-expensive-days-to-fly-this-christmas-and-new-years/>

⁴ <http://ro.umich.edu/webgrades.php>

⁵ Appendix A - Big Ten University Fall Term Start Dates

⁶ University of Michigan Accreditation 2010 Report
<http://www.accreditation.umich.edu/index4.php>

before Labor Day; **AND**

WHEREAS, in the proposed Fall 2020 academic calendar, the United States Federal Election Day and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break become academic holidays; **AND**

WHEREAS, this proposal maintains Fall Break and the Wednesday Study Day before final exams, with the term ending on December 20; **AND**

WHEREAS, the LSA Student Government, Rackham Student Government, and Engineering Student Government each surveyed their individual constituencies in the Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 terms on potential changes to the academic calendar; **AND**

WHEREAS, of the 842 LSA students who voted on the question, 584 (69%) voted in favor of amending the academic calendar to start before Labor Day, 161 (19%) voted against starting before Labor Day, and 97 (12%) voted that they were indifferent to starting before or after Labor Day⁷; **AND**

WHEREAS, of the 356 Rackham graduate students who voted on the question, 274 (77.2%) voted in favor of having the academic calendar to start before Labor Day, 78 (22%) voted against starting before Labor Day, and 1(0.3%) voted that they were indifferent to starting before or after Labor Day; **AND**

WHEREAS, of the 1,088 Engineering students who answered a similar survey 864 (79.4%) voted in favor of having the academic calendar start before labor day, 140 (12.9%) voted in favor of eliminating Fall Break and still starting after Labor Day, and approximately 77 (7.08%) voted in favor of starting after Labor Day, keeping Fall Break, and ending the semester later,⁸ **AND**

WHEREAS, Nursing Student Government released a letter on January 21 of the proposed 2020-2021 Academic Calendar and supporting starting before Labor Day; **AND**

WHEREAS, Central Student Government sixth assembly formerly passed a resolution (30-5-0) to support an Academic Holiday on Election Day⁹; **AND**

WHEREAS, on Wednesday January 24 LSA Student Government unanimously passed “**R W2018.02 A Resolution in Support of the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Proposed by the Office of the Registrar With Classes**

⁷ Appendix B - LSA SG Fall 2017 Election Results - Academic Calendar Ballot Question

⁸ Appendix C - Engineering Student Government Academic Calendar Survey Results

⁹ <https://umcsg.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/a-r-6-041-second-reads.pdf>

Starting Before Labor Day¹⁰, supporting both the Proposed 2020-2021 Academic Calendar and having the Academic Calendar start before Labor Day consistently thereafter; **AND**

WHEREAS, LSA Student Government on January 24, 2018 passed “R W2108.03 **A Resolution Supporting the University Recognizing United States Election Day as an Academic Holiday and Discouraging Course Exams on All Local, State, and Federal Election Days**” supporting having election day off¹¹; **AND**

WHEREAS, Engineering Student Government in 2016 passed “**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AN ACADEMIC HOLIDAY ON ELECTION DAY**” supporting having election day off; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, the Central Student Government (CSG) Assembly and the University Council formally support the Office of the Registrar’s Proposed 2020-2021 Academic Calendar which has the Fall 2020 academic term start before Labor Day; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, CSG Assembly and the University Council formally support having the University of Michigan Academic Calendar start the week before Labor Day for every academic year following 2020-2021; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, CSG shall send a copy of this resolution to President Mark Schlissel, Provost Martin Philbert, Associate Vice Provost and Registrar Paul Robinson, Associate Registrar Lisa Emery, and Chair of the Board of Regents Mark Bernstein.

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¹⁰ LSA Student Government “R W2018.02 A Resolution in Support of the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Proposed by the Office of the Registrar With Classes Starting Before Labor Day”
<https://lsa.umich.edu/content/dam/lsag-assets/lsag-docs/WN-2018/Academic%20Calendar%20Resolution.pdf>

¹¹ LSA Student Government “R W2018.03 A Resolution Supporting the University Recognizing United States Election Day as an Academic Holiday and Discouraging Course Exams on All Local, State, and Federal Election Days”
<https://lsa.umich.edu/content/dam/lsag-assets/lsag-docs/WN-2018/Election%20Day%20No%20Exams%20Resolution.pdf>

Sponsors

Ainsley Ashman, College of Engineering

Attest (UC Specific)

Attest

Alex Contis, LSA
Speaker of the Assembly

Isabel Baer, LSA
Vice-Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____

Appendix A - Big Ten University Fall Term Start Dates

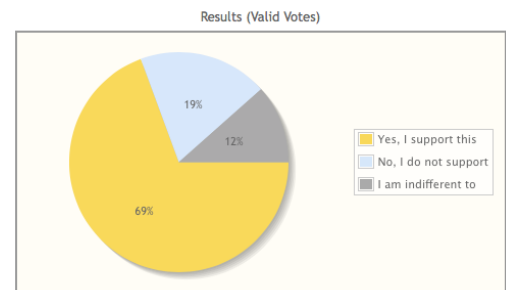
University	Start Before or After Labor Day	Start Date (Fall 2017)	Link to Academic Calendar
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	After	September 5	http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/fa17.php
Northwestern University	After	September 19	http://www.registrar.northwestern.edu/calendars/2017_18_acad_calendar.html
University of Wisconsin - Madison	After	September 6	https://secfac.wisc.edu/academic-calendar/
Rutgers University	After	September 5	https://registrar.camden.rutgers.edu/academic-calendar-2017-2018
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities	After	September 5	https://onestop.umn.edu/dates-and-deadlines
Michigan State University	Before	August 30	https://reg.msu.edu/roinfo/calendar/academic.aspx
The Ohio State University	Before	August 22	http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp
University of Maryland	Before	August 28	https://www.provost.umd.edu/calendar/17.html
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign	Before	August 28	https://www.provost.umd.edu/calendar/17.html
University of Indiana	Before	August 21	http://registrar.indiana.edu/official-calendar/official-calendar-fall.shtml
Penn State University	Before	August 21	http://registrar.psu.edu/academic_calendar/fall17.cfm

University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Before	August 21	https://registrar.unl.edu/2017-2018#tab1
University of Iowa	Before	August 21	http://catalog.registrar.uiowa.edu/calendar/
Purdue University	Before	August 21	https://www.purdue.edu/registrar/calendars/2017-18-Academic-Calendar.html

Appendix B - LSA SG Fall 2017 Election Results - Academic Calendar Ballot Question

Due to concerns regarding the short length of winter break, the Registrar's Office is considering changes to the academic calendar. Would you be in favor of starting the fall academic term one week before Labor Day with the purpose of extending winter break?

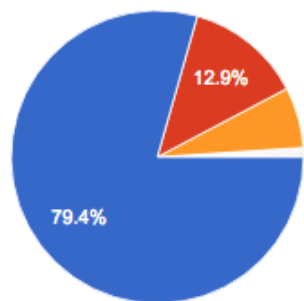
Answer	Votes	Exceptions	Total including Exceptions
Yes, I support this proposal	584	26	610
No, I do not support this proposal	161	14	175
I am indifferent to this proposal	97	5	102



Appendix C - Engineering Student Government Academic Calendar Survey Results

Fall 2020 Academic Calendar Options

1,088 responses



- Begin classes a week early (before...
- Give up Fall Break, while beginning...
- Start classes after Sept. 1st, retain f...
- Start classes after Sept. 1st, retain f...
- Just cut one day of the study and fi...
- Begin two weeks earlier and end th...
- Give up fall break and election, how...
- The winter break we have is absurd...

▲ 1/2 ▼