

Rutgers University Senate
Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee
Response to Charge S-1003, Part II
October 2010

Charge S-1003, Fall 2010 Academic Calendar: Consider the potential problems with the Fall 2010 academic calendar brought to the Senate's attention by Senator Ted Szatrowski; namely, the fact that the first class meeting for sections of courses meeting on Monday only will not take place until near the end of the second week of classes. Evaluate the difficulties this will cause for faculty and students. Consult with Arun Mukherjee, University Director of Scheduling and Space Management, with appropriate staff in the Office of Information Technology (OIT), and with representatives of various schools and colleges and recommend whether or not changes should be made to the Fall 2010 academic calendar to solve the problems identified. Also revisit the academic calendar for subsequent years to see if changes should be made in order to avoid similar problems with Monday classes in the future. Respond to the Senate Executive Committee by April 2010 with regard to recommendations for Fall 2010 and by October 2010 for recommendations for future years.

Background

ASRAC responded to the first part of this charge in April 2010 and recommended that

- the academic calendar for fall 2010 be changed so that Monday classes would meet on Wednesday, September 8, and Wednesday classes would meet on Monday, November 22, unless the Rutgers' administration could persuade the Senate Executive Committee that there were compelling reasons not to do so.
- the room assignment creation and load process for the 2011-2012 academic year not be run until the Senate finished considering possible changes to the academic calendars for 2011-2012 and beyond.

The Senate endorsed ASRAC's [report](#) and recommendations at its meeting of April 30, 2010 and the recommended changes to the fall 2010 academic calendar were, in fact, implemented.

Conclusions and Recommendations

ASRAC met on September 24, 2010 to consider possible changes to the fall academic calendars for 2011-2012 and beyond to avoid problems with Monday classes due to Labor Day. We agreed that changes to the fall 2011 academic calendar should be made to avoid having the first meeting of Monday-only classes occur on September 12th and considered several possible ways to fix the problem. After consulting with Arun Mukherjee, the Director of Scheduling and Space Management, concerning this matter, the Committee agreed to recommend the following changes in the designations of class days for fall 2011:

1. Thursday, September 8, 2011 – Monday classes will meet.
2. Monday, November 21, 2011 – Wednesday classes will meet.
3. Tuesday, November 22, 2011 – Thursday classes will meet.

Although the committee would have preferred a solution to the problem that did not require three changes in class day designations, we believe this proposal is the best that can be done for fall 2011 and has several advantages over other proposals considered by the Committee:

- The proposal retains having no classes the day before Thanksgiving.
- The last two changes will take place in Thanksgiving week, when changes of class day designations have often occurred.
- The changes involve a Monday-Wednesday switch and a Tuesday-Thursday switch, which will cause fewer problems than some other types of switches since Monday-Wednesday and Tuesday-Thursday are very common combinations for courses that meet twice a week.

ASRAC has not yet finished its consideration of possible changes to the academic calendars for 2012-2013 and beyond. Nonetheless, we ask the Senate to vote on the proposed changes to the fall 2011 academic calendar at this time because we have been informed that the room assignment creation and load process for the 2011-2012 academic year needs to be run by mid-November, at the very latest. This report therefore represents another partial response to charge S-1003. The Committee anticipates submitting a final report on this charge later in this academic year.

Proposed Resolution

Whereas, the University Senate's Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee has considered problems with the fall 2011 academic calendar and made recommendations for changes to alleviate those problems; and

Whereas, the University Senate has reviewed the Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee's recommendations and found them to be sound and in the best interests of Rutgers University;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Rutgers University Senate endorses the recommendations of the Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee and directs the Rutgers' administration to implement the recommended changes to the fall 2011 academic calendar.