**COMMITTEE:** Calendar Committee Organizational Meeting

**MEETING DATE:** 10-16-2023 at 2pm

**PERSON PRESIDING:** Katelyn Rouse

**REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Gopal Gopalakrishnan, Madeline Fernandez, Marianne Montgomery, Samantha Mosier, Katelyn Rouse, Michael Veber

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Peter Groenendyk, Akshat Kapoor, Ron Preston, Lauren Turbeville, Mathew Blount

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Rachel Baker, Beth Dawson

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**ACTIONS OF MEETING**

- Welcome
- Review Minutes from September Meeting
- Approval of Minutes from September Meeting by: Michael Verber (moved motion) and Ron Preston (second)

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**Agenda Item:** Review and Discuss Summer 2025 Academic Calendar

**Discussion:** Juneteenth may have passed as a state holiday recently, need to check on that and come back to change this schedule. May need to take out the day break between both sessions.

**Action Taken:** Checked online and saw it was not recognized as an official holiday schedule was approved as is.

**Assigned additional duties to:**
none

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**Agenda Item:** Review and Discuss Fall 2025 Academic Calendar

**Discussion:** Fall grade deadline is Friday, December 19, but faculty members have asked if it could be changed to the following Monday instead of Friday. The registrar suggests keeping it on Friday. This has been previously discussed and there was lots of work for the registrar's office to change this and may also run into commencement events. Peter Groenendyk states the more we push the dates back it may cause issues with transfer students coming in. Katelyn Rouse states it can cause issues with students leaving their dorms. Gopal Krishnan states for those who have final exams on the last 2 days of exams we could give them grades on Monday. Beth Dawson states grading is turned on and off at set times so they can run processes, they cannot run processes while it is still on. It can also affect the appeals process and let students know about their academic standing and register for classes in January.

Mathew Blount (SGA rep) brings up wellness day, a day of recognition giving students time to reflect on themselves and their mental wellbeing. This was discussed last year and there was tension around having a free day available, contact hours, and canceling hours. However, if other schools are making it work, we should investigate it. It is intended to be a holiday, with no classes. Michael Veber suggests we first consider if ECU should be doing this to begin with
even though other schools are doing it, since students can use weekends and existing holidays for this. Mathew Blount brings up the issues about mental health and suicide rates on campus. Michael Veber suggests we consider if there is evidence to suggest a day off is effective in helping reduce suicide rates. We need to do research on this before making any decisions, why is it being done, and whether it is effective. Ron Preston explains other universities have done it since their calendar dates and semesters were longer than ours, they have also used weekends for final exams and commencement.

Member asks if a reading day should be traded in as a wellness day. Professional degree programs would be impacted if we decide to extend the semesters. The reading days are used in several programs (such as defending thesis) which would be impacted if removed/reduced. Considered using the Wednesday before Thanksgiving which is already a day off to be made a wellness day, however, we still would not be adding a day off for wellness, it's already a day off, so it would just be changing the name for that day.

Another member asked if this is the right committee to be bringing this up, and if would it really help students struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts. Another member responded by saying it is the responsibility of ECU to take a stand and say we care about this issue, and this is what we are doing to address it. It was suggested to take a Friday and make a long weekend so students can go home and be with family/friends. Gopal Krishnan suggests looking at the calendar from 10 years ago to see how it used to be however the contract of the Little League may be impacted if we extend a semester by one week. Also, extending a semester by one week to add wellness days does not sound like it would make sense for students' mental health.

**Action Taken:**
Tabled the wellness day. Committee members will do individual research and then come back to discuss and decide what to do for the remaining calendars.

**Assigned additional duties to:**
All

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**New Agenda Item: family-friendly calendar**

**Discussion:** Creating a family-friendly calendar, suggestions from students asking to start getting the calendar closer to Pitt County schools so there isn’t a huge disparity for spring break and lack of childcare during that time while they still need to attend school. Pitt County calendars keep fluctuating, they set their calendars later than we do, may be challenging to do this. We might need to recommend to the faculty senate about changing the guidelines for this committee so we can make this change. Making winter break longer was also considered in the past. We need to start communications on how we would be able to make this a sustainable alignment with Pitt County schools before we make the change on spring break week.

**Action Taken:** None at this time, will consider reaching out to the faculty senate about the guidelines to be able to do this.

**Assigned additional duties to:**

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**NEXT MEETING:** 11/20/2023 at 2pm

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

- Review and Discuss Fall 2025 Academic Calendar
• Review and Discuss Fall 2025 Alternate Block Schedule
  o 2 options for Block 2
• Review and Discuss Spring 2026 Academic Calendar
• Review and Discuss Spring 2026 Alternate Block Schedule
  o 2 options for Block 2
• Review and Discuss 2027-2028 Abridged Calendar
• Family-friendly calendar – Spring Break

Adjourned 2:46pm