

Academic Calendar Rethink

Some Issues For Faculty

Becky Stoltzfus and Charlie Van Loan

Academic Calendar Committee Co-Chairs

Committee Charge

Review all aspects of the current calendar (instituted 2013-14) particularly

1. The position and value of all breaks and study days
2. Spring semester start and finish

Be proactive in getting calendar ideas from students, employees, and faculty.

All changes must be well-reasoned and justified.

Where We Are

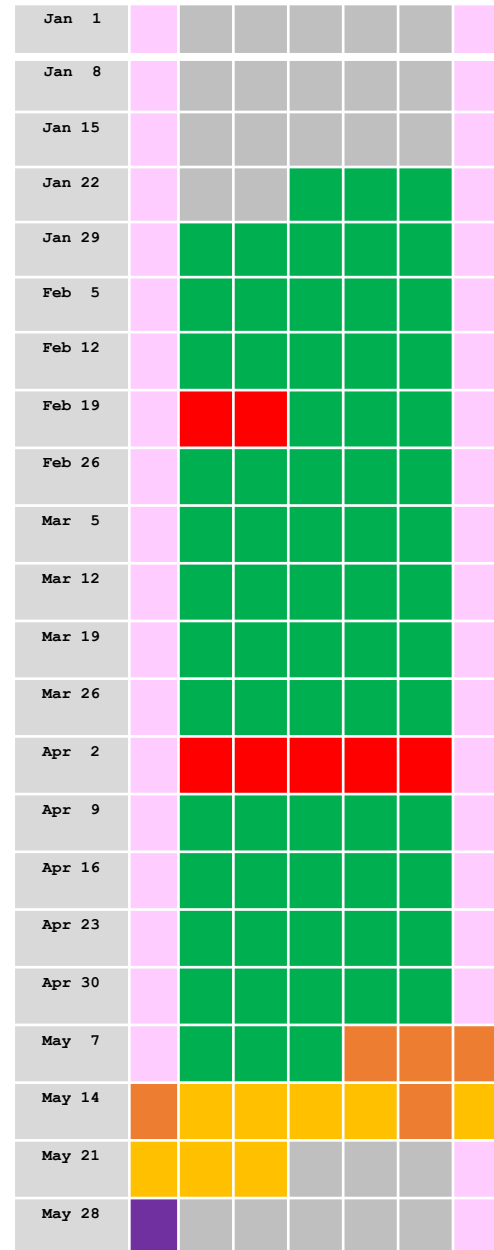
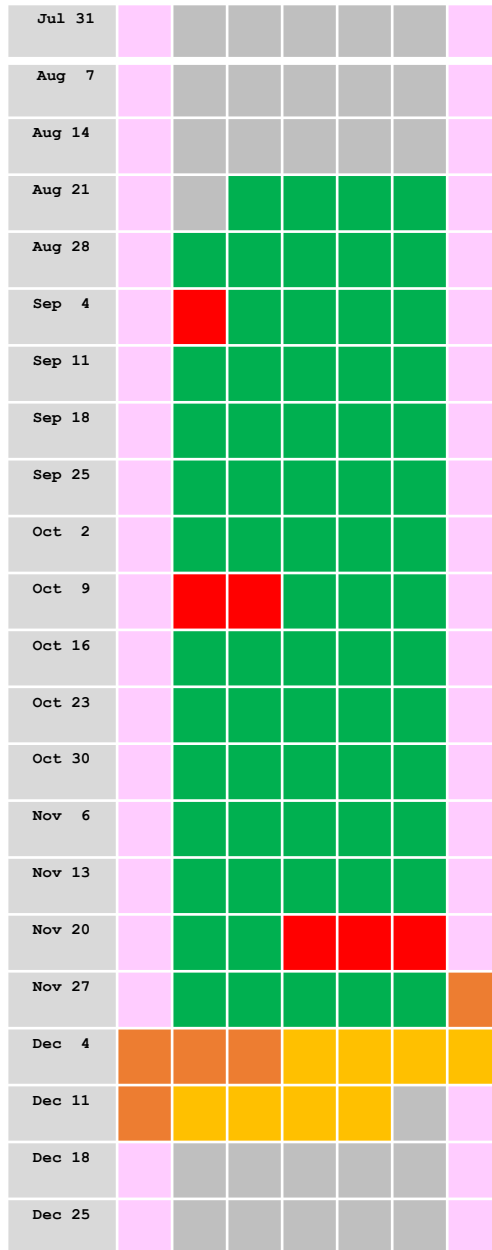
About 1000 comments (sorted into 13 categories) are posted on the website. Most of these are from individuals.

About 100 emails to acad-calendar@cornell.edu . Many of these from various offices and programs.

SA, GPSA, and EA have had presentations/town halls etc.

Committee has met 3 times and will use Jan-Feb-Mar to formulate a proposal. Senate deals with it Apr-May. Provost makes final decision.

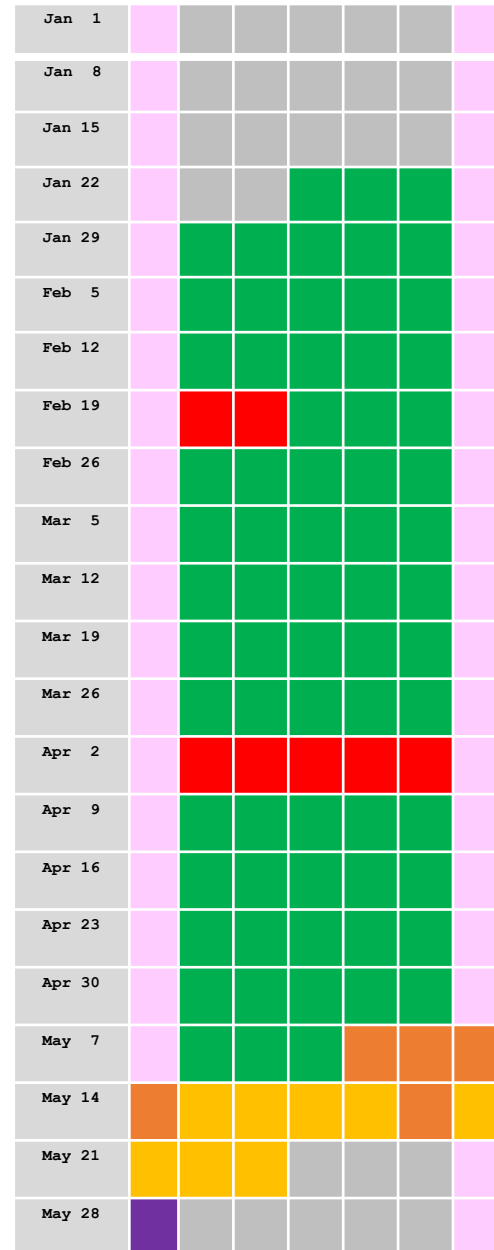
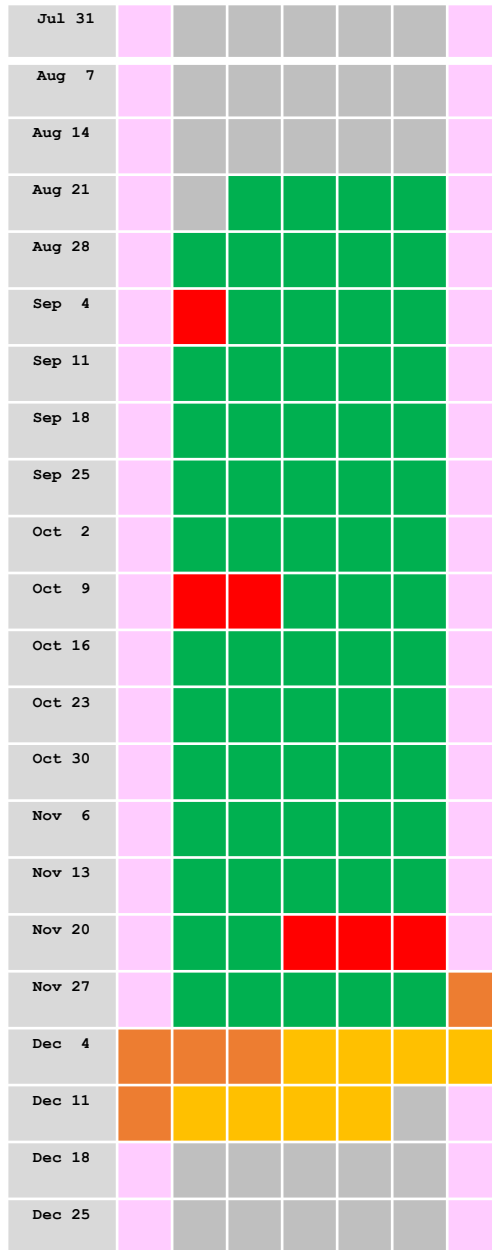
2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Our Calendar is
Very, Very, Very
Special!

1. **Very** early August start.
2. **Very** late May ending.
3. **Very** long between-semester break.

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

CD = # Class Days

WW = # Whole Weeks

WB = Weekday Balance

ED = # Exam Days

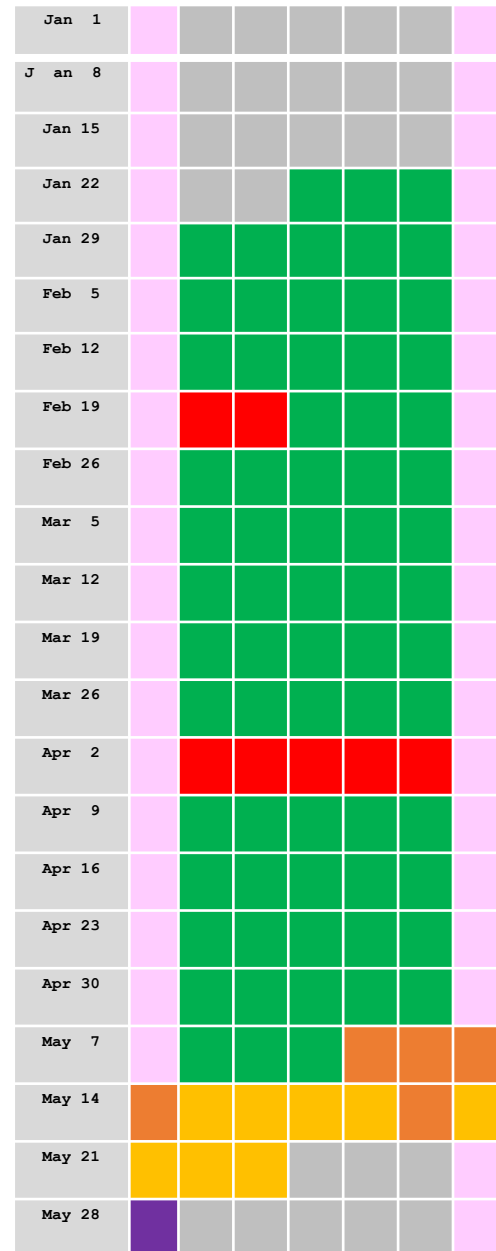
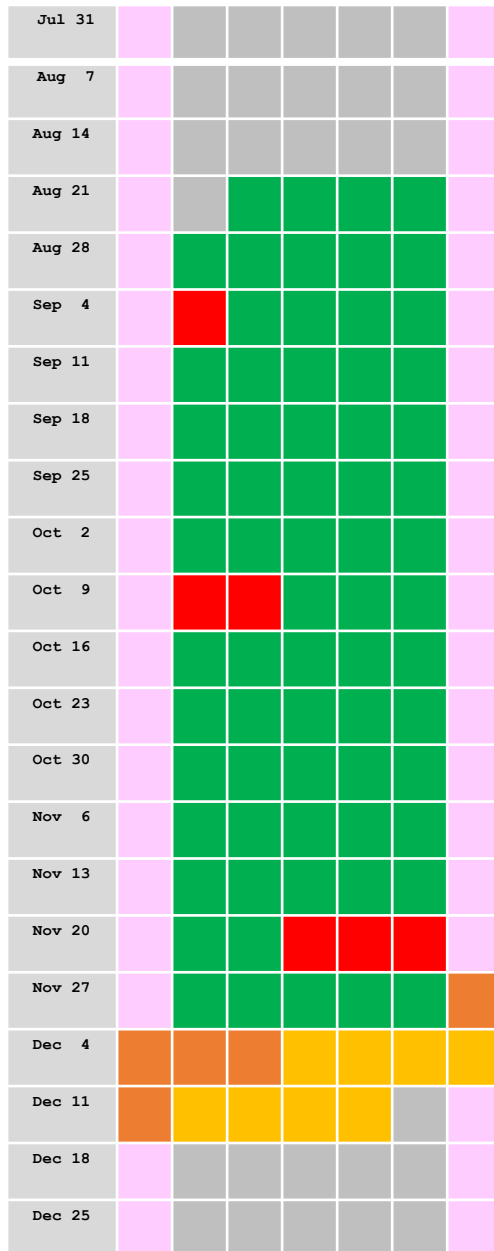
SD = # Study Days

IW = # Intersession Weeks

SW = # Summer Weeks

CD = # Childcare Days

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

CD = # Class Days

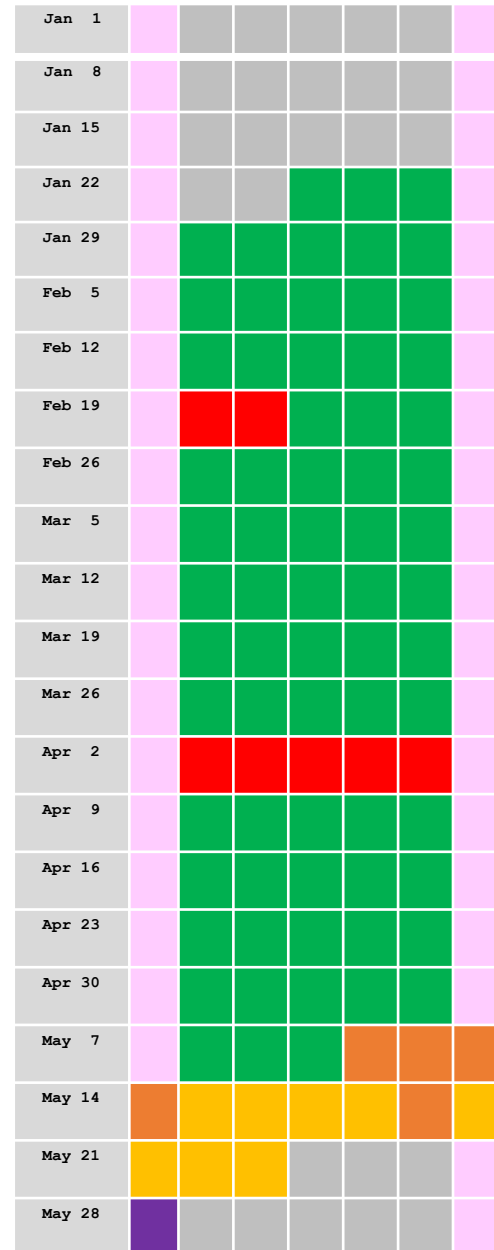
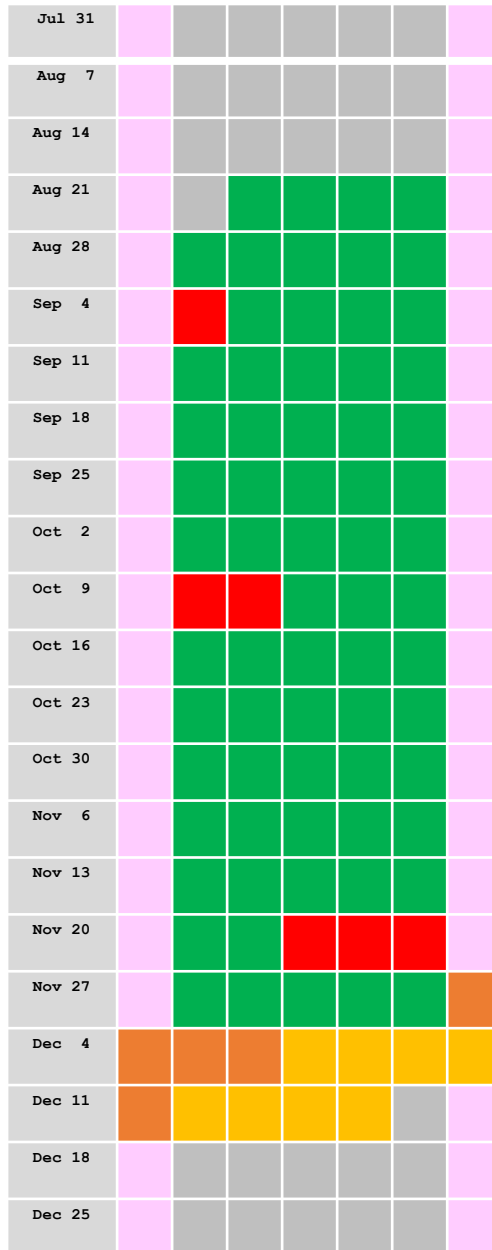
Fall = 68

Spring = 69

We have to answer to NY State and the calculation involves class days and exam days.

The volume of instruction cannot decrease.

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

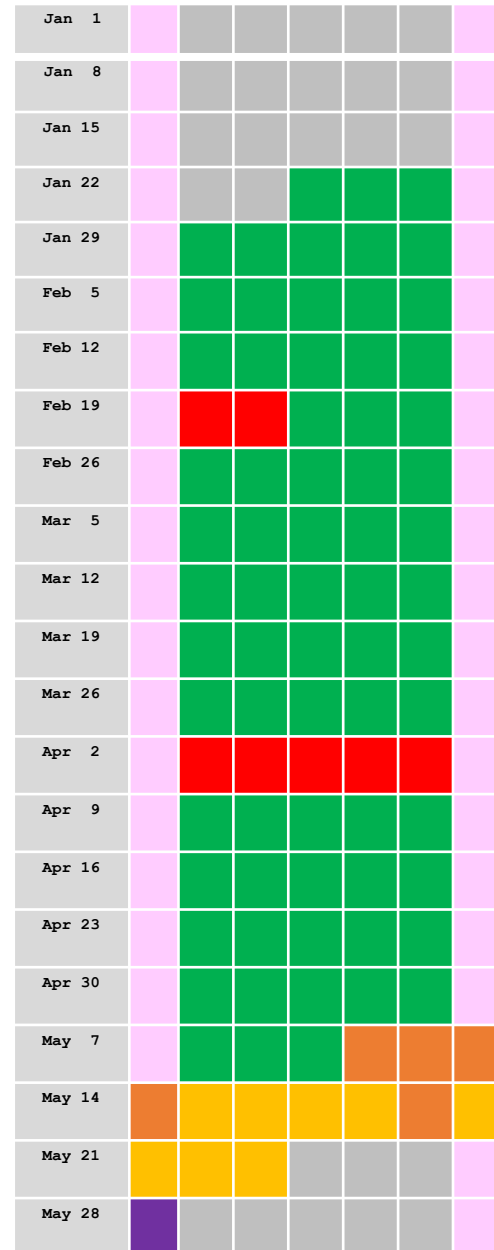
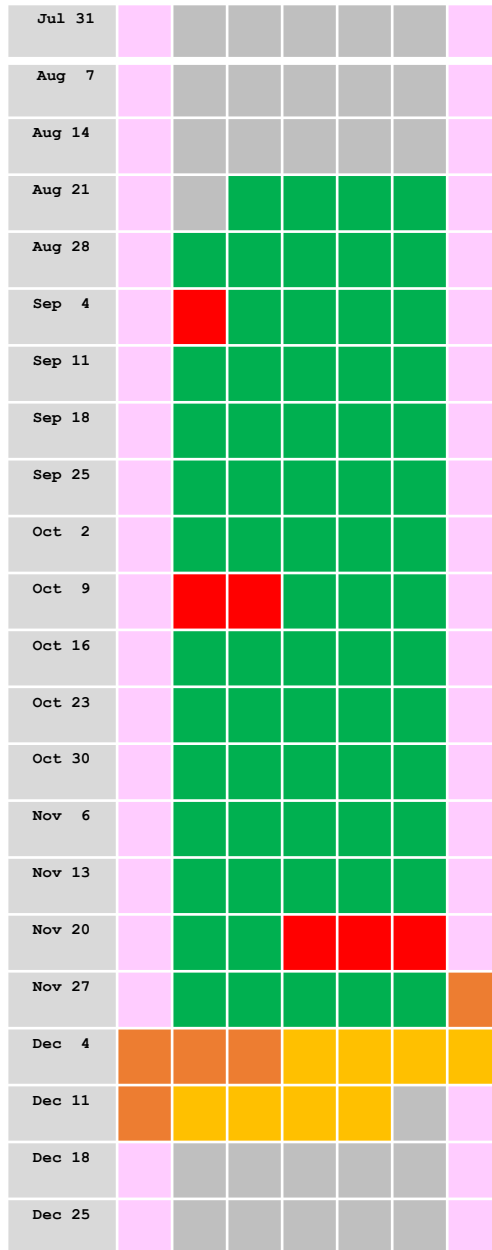
WW = # Whole Weeks

Fall = 11

Spring = 12

This is important for classes that have M-F labs and sections.

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

WB = Weekday Balance

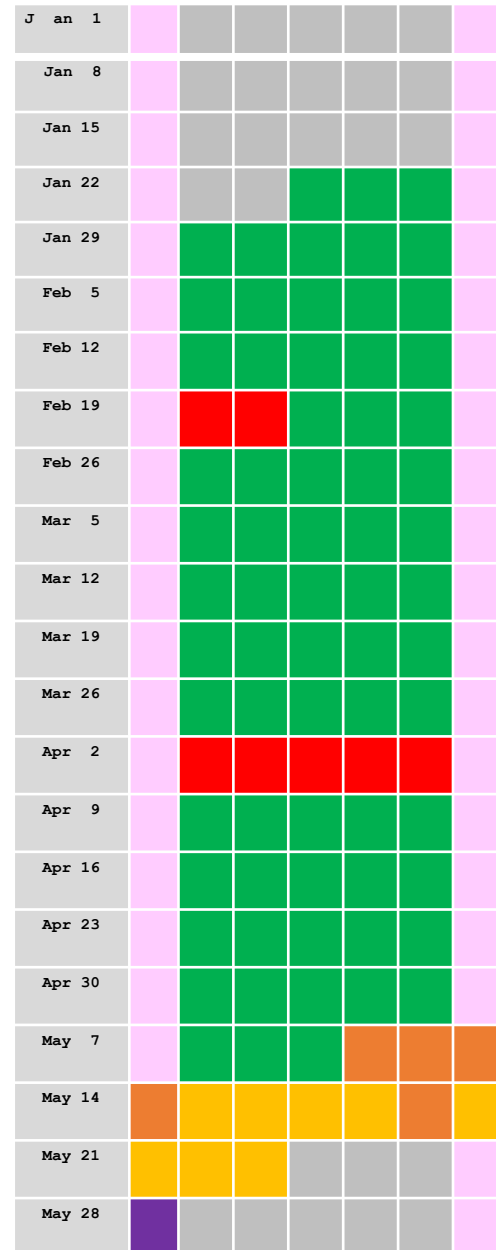
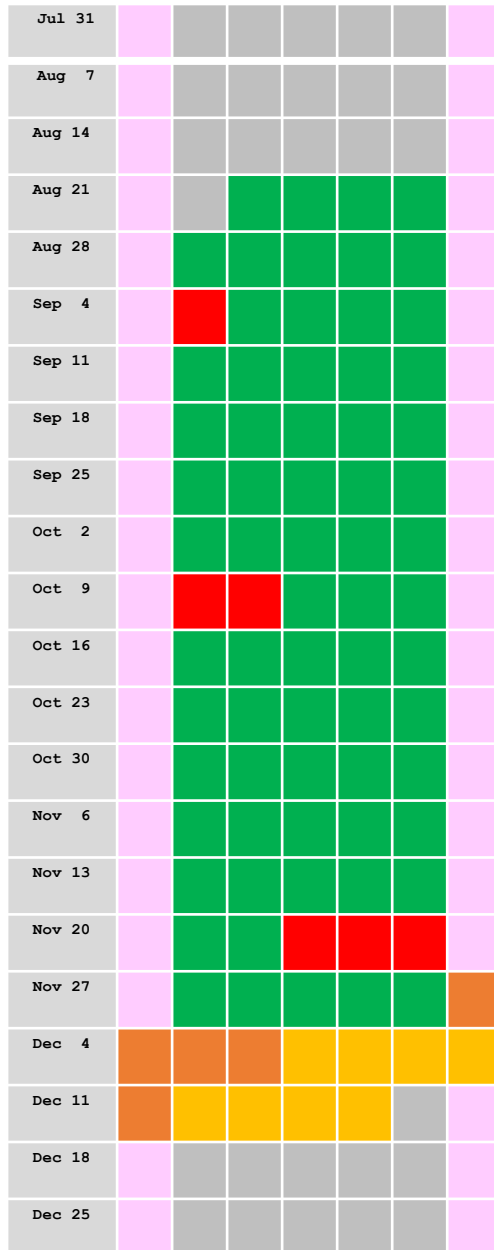
Fall = (12, 14, 14, 14, 14)

Spring = (13, 13, 15, 14, 14)

This is important for certain classes that meet once or twice a week.

For S17, if we define the first Wednesday as a Tuesday, then (13, 14, 14, 14, 14)

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

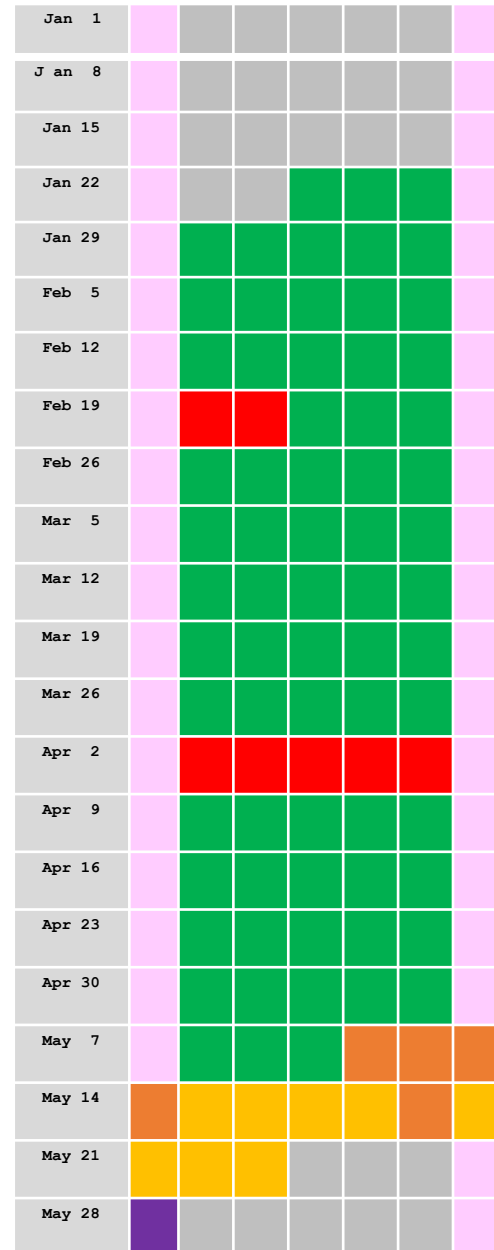
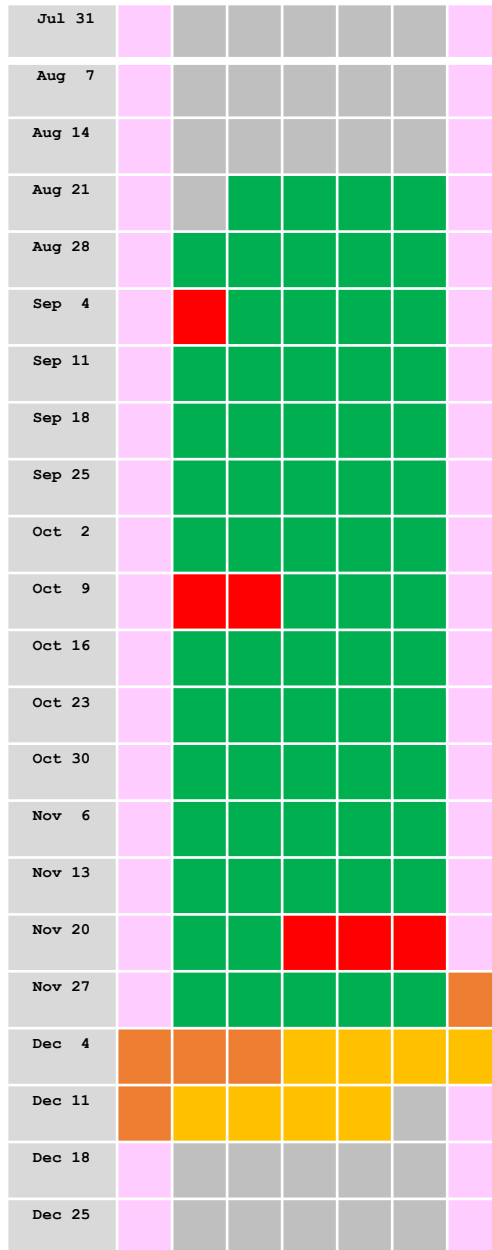
ED = # Exam Days

SD = # Study Days

	ED	SD

Cornell	8	5
UPenn	7	4
UMich	6	4
Berkeley	5	9
Harvard	9	9
Yale	8	3

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

IW = # Inter-session Weeks

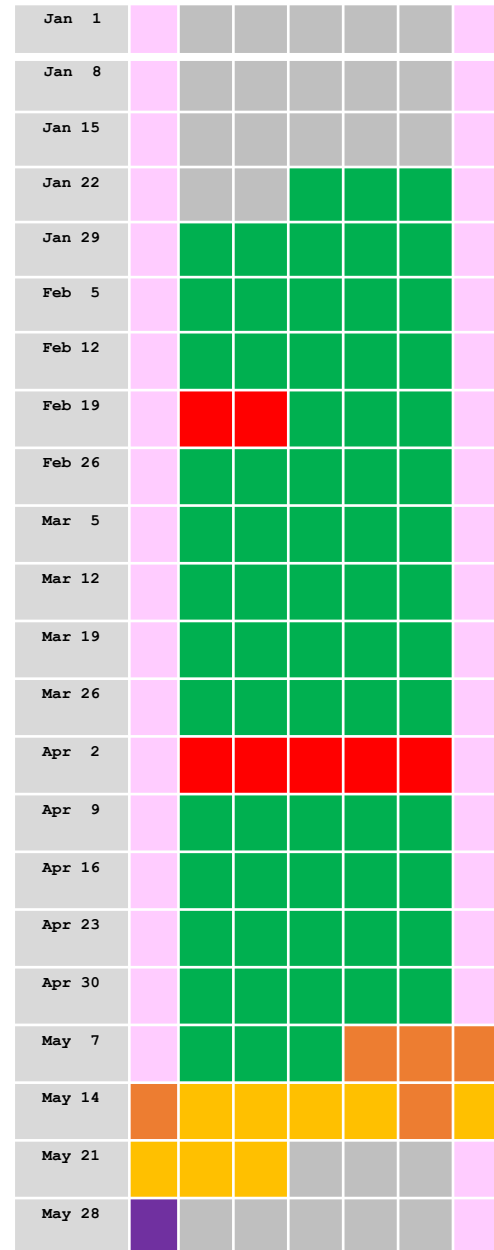
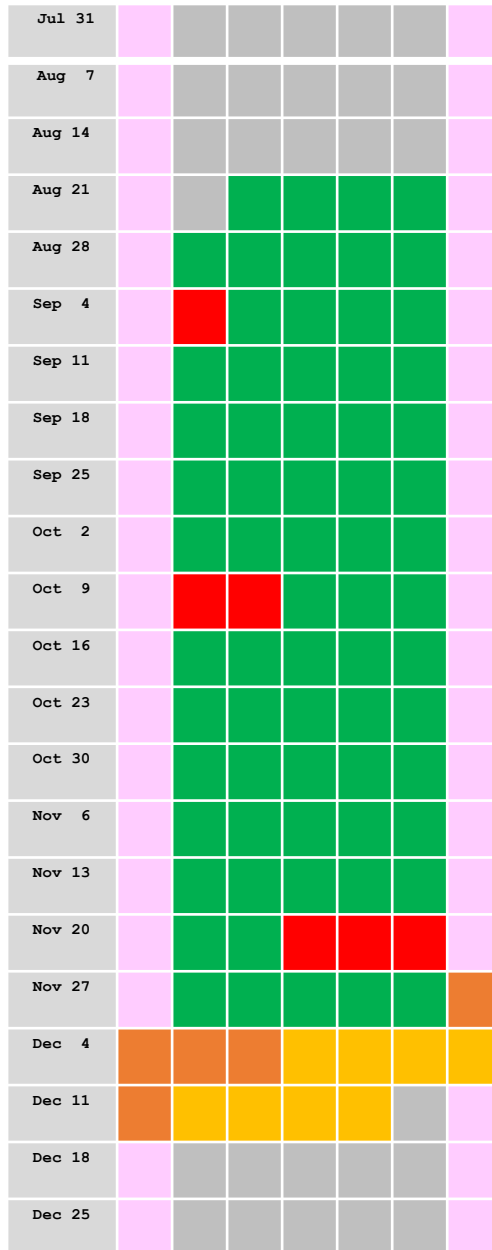
International travel.
 Proposal writing. Winter session. Staff work.
 Building maintenance.

SW = # Summer Weeks

Student jobs/internships

Funding agency regs.

2016-17 (Current Calendar)



Numerical Attributes of a Calendar

CD = # Childcare Days

A Childcare day is when Cornell is in session and (say) ICSD is not.

Approximate stats:

Fall = 11 (+ $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$)

Spring = 6 (+ $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$)

More Complicated Issues/Problems

Fall Semester:

Can we start later?

Is it possible to have a 1-week Thanksgiving break?

Spring Semester:

How might we reposition the two spring-semester breaks?

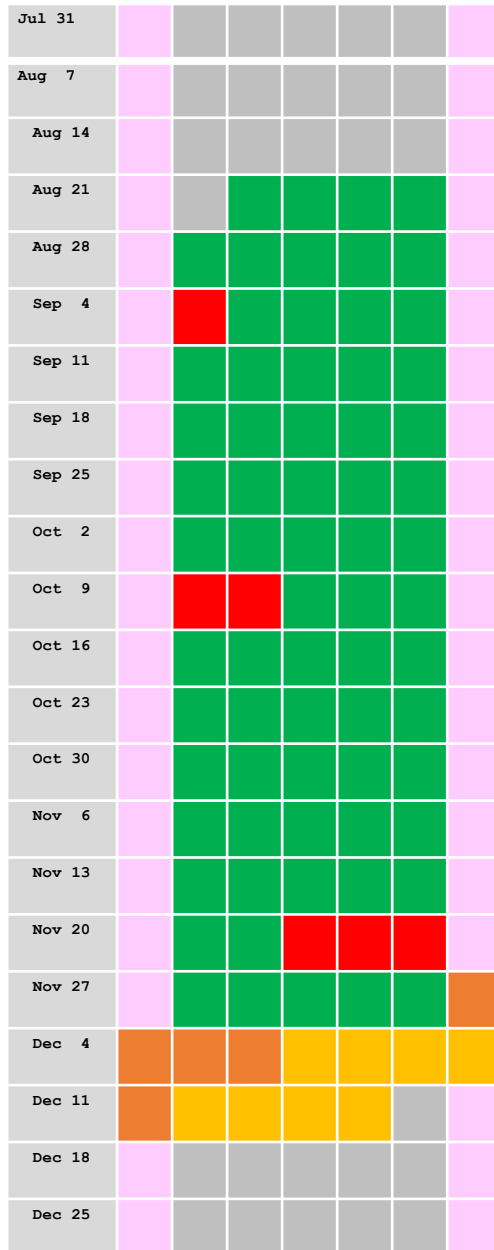
What would a single-break spring semester look like?

Can we start earlier?

Can graduation be earlier?

What follows are not answers but possibilities. They are designed to help you think along with the Committee in the next few months.

Fall 2016 (Current)

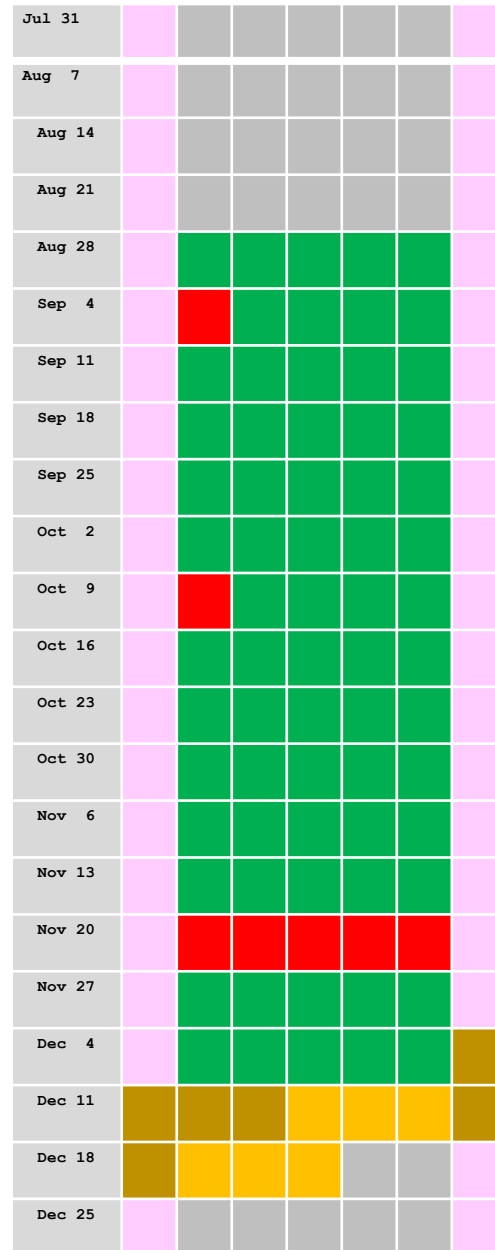


Starting Later in the Fall

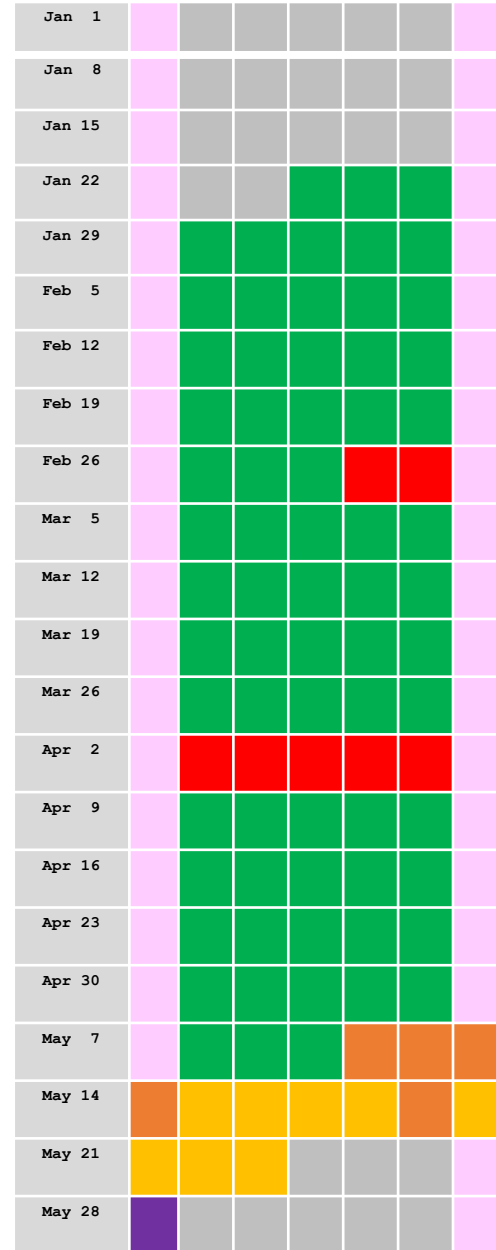
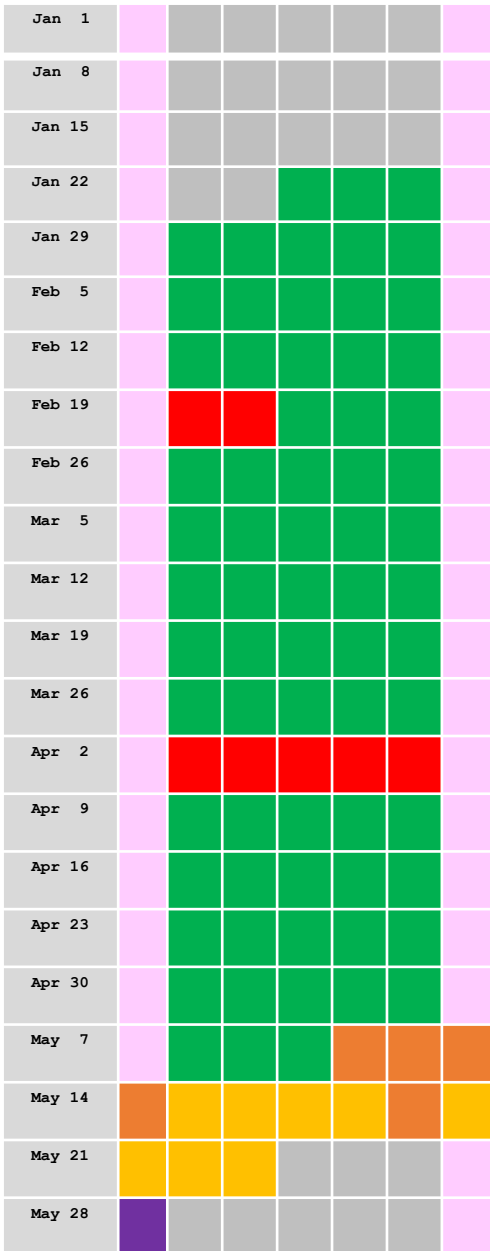
One way to do this is to adjust what happens around Thanksgiving and later.

Lot of unhappiness with last seven class days in the current calendar.

Exams on weekends?
Orientation?
Fewer exam days?



2017 Spring (Current)



A Later February Break

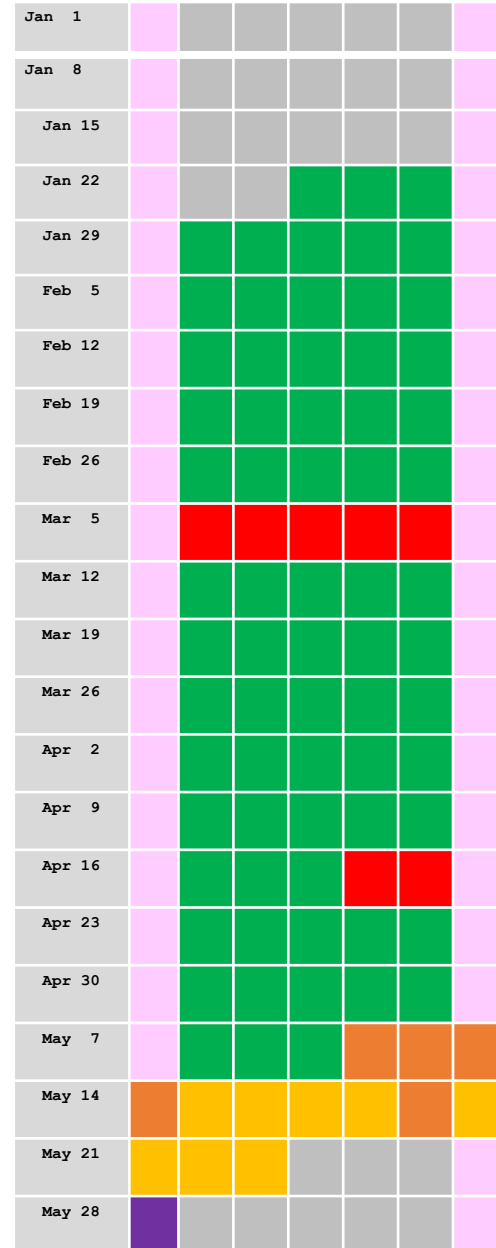
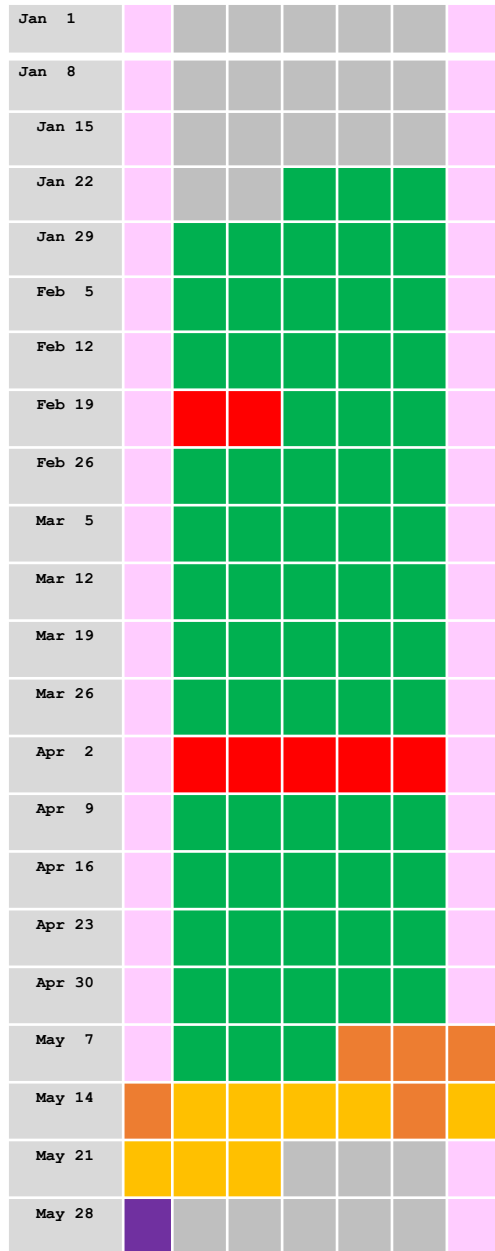
This would address the "Feb Break too early" problem.

Adds two childcare days.

The prelim cycle.

Faculty, students, and Employees see breaks Differently.

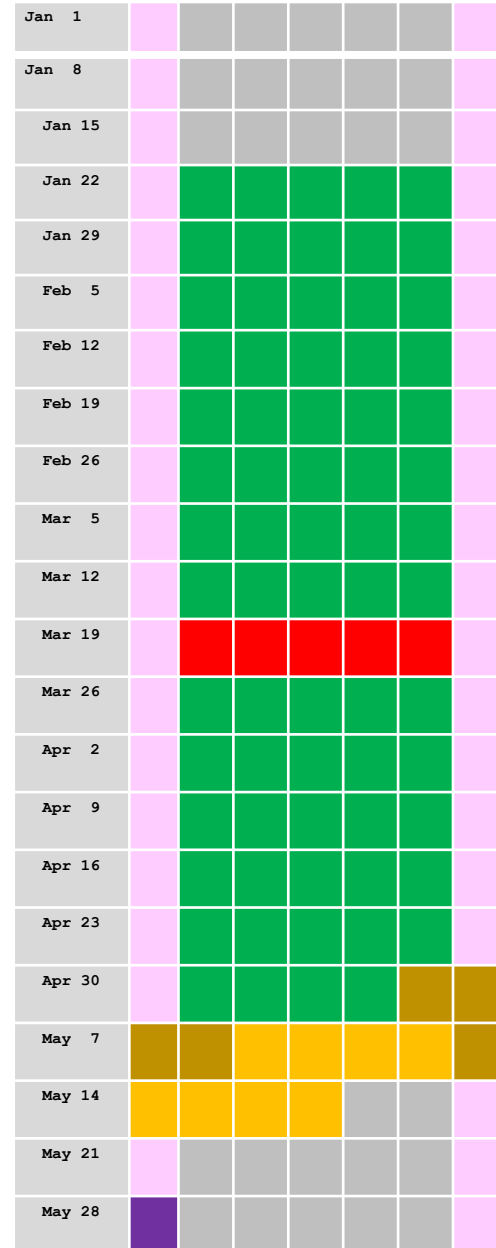
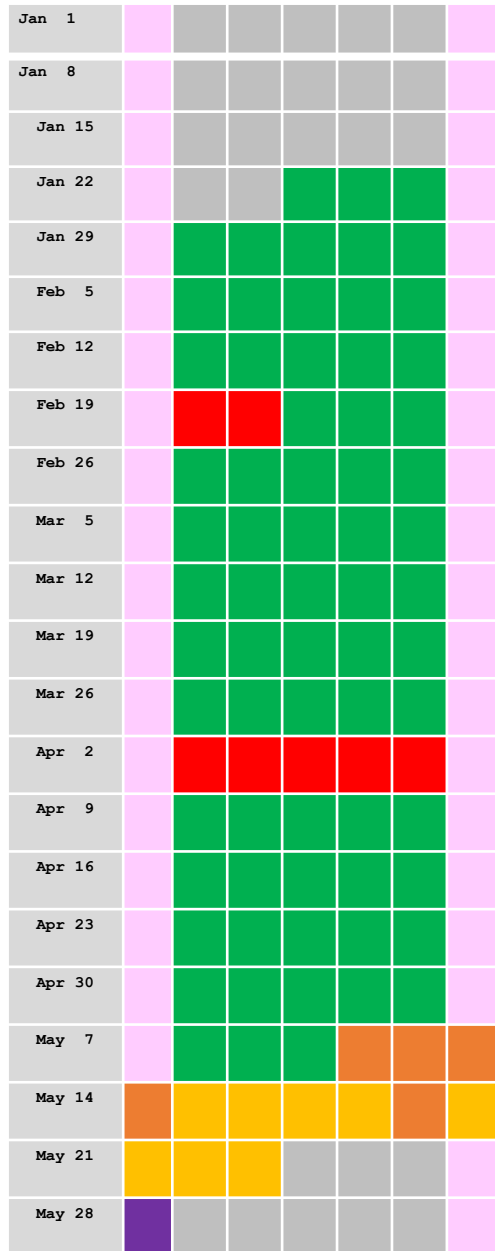
2017 Spring (Current)



An Inverted 2-Break Spring

How do we reason about long versus short breaks?

2017 Spring (Current)

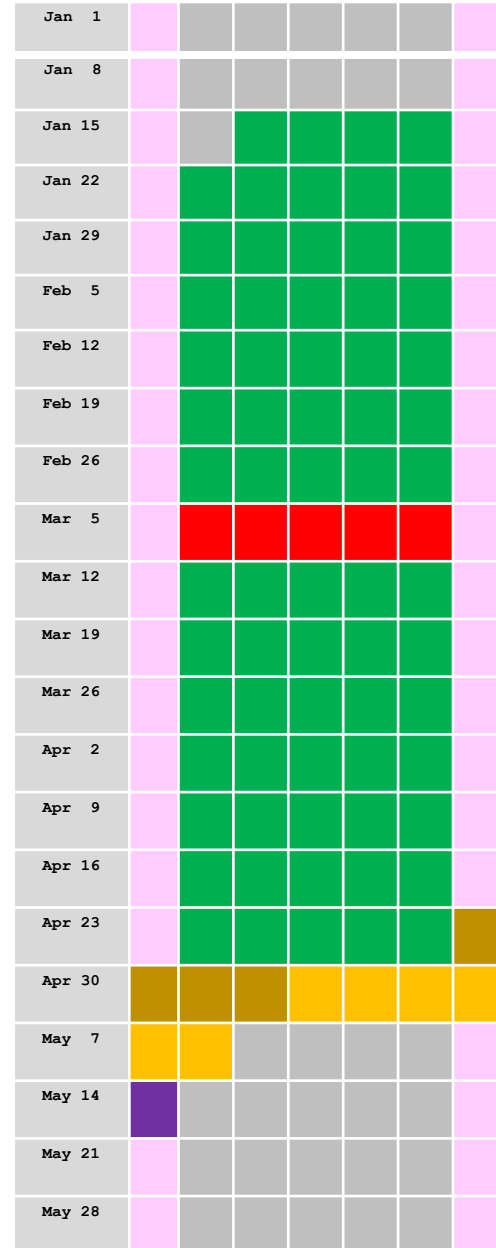
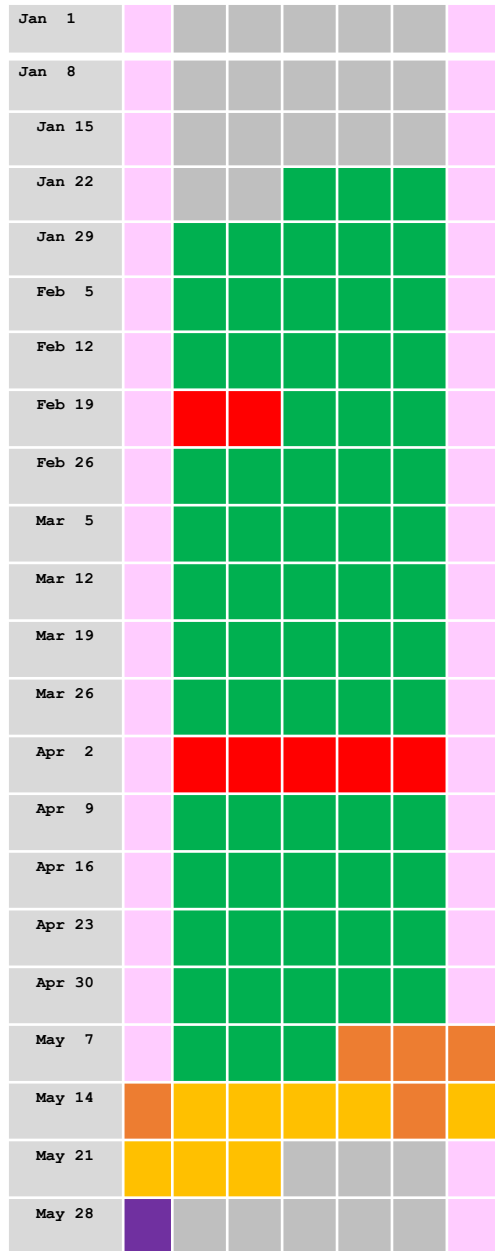


An End-Early Single-Break Spring

Restores "Senior Week"

Ramifications?

2017 Spring (Current)



Spring with a Two-Week-Earlier Commencement

A shortened exam period coupled with a single break could mean starting only 8 days earlier.

How might we shorten the exam period?

Summary

The Committee will circulate a “half-time” report at the start of the new semester.

It will assimilate the 1000+ comments and emails, clarify the available options, and promote empathy through multidimensional optimization.

We continue to need insights and out-of-the-box ideas from the faculty.