

F1StaffUnsure

While I think the current calendar starts too early in August, I am not sure that making up for it by reducing fall break to one day or holding class on Labor Day is a good idea.

As someone who pays (a lot) for school-age children to attend summer camps, the 4 days gained from a later start date does not help unless it is after Labor Day. Most camps charge by the full week. From that perspective, there is less to be gained for staff. The later final exam date risks more interference from weather at that time of year. I'm not sure the gains of a later start-date counter balance the potential weather implications of the later end date. Although, I do favor a lengthier instruction time following the Thanksgiving break.

I don't have strong feelings about either option. The concern with the F1 framework is University/employee impact with needing additional student services to run past 12/22 as the latest exam day (dining, residence halls). However, it isn't such a strong concern that the F1 framework isn't feasible.

No classes should be held on Labor Day; that Variation is not viable.

- Later August start date works better - Not sure about classes on Labor Day, I think that's a bad idea

I don't have insight into how compacting the final exam period will effect students or time needed for grading. I do have a concern about Cornell offering classes on Labor Day, as it had in the past. If the staff (admins and IT) are off that day, this seemed to cause trouble in the past. Also, many faculty and staff have children and, with schools closed that day, this is also problematic.

Study period value is unclear

Unsure about having classes on Labor day again.

I definitely see the value of starting later in August and adding additional class days between Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break, but I'm concerned about how late the semester could end with this proposed calendar. In years when finals don't end until December 21st or 22nd, I'm concerned that staff and faculty will not have sufficient time to submit grades prior to the university holiday, especially as many people take December 24th off. Additionally, students already want their finals to be as early in the grading period as possible--how will those students respond to having finals so late in December?

I don't like that the F1 semester goes so far into December and that Thanksgiving break is so short. I like that there are more class days after Thanksgiving break and that the exam study period is shorter than the current one. I also like that the F1 goes from NYS 76 to 75 -the New York State minimum.

It could work in that it shortens fall break and keeps the current Thanksgiving break. The shortcoming of it is that classes starting on Thursday does not encourage students to attend the first couple of classes.

Everything has its advantages and disadvantages. It seems like since the last calendar change, every semester has been pushed back. When you compare with "peer institutions", which schools are we comparing ourselves with? Whether exam week is extended or shortened by one or two days, it does not seem to me to make much of a difference because exam week is difficult here regardless. If you are comparing Cornell to MIT or UC Berkeley, then this may make some sense as other institutions including other Ivy League institutions are not considered to be nearly as academically rigorous (for undergraduate students) as it is here.

As a department manager, this does not have a big impact on me or the staff. Seems like a workable solution.

These diagrams are quite impenetrable to someone who has not had the luxury of sitting on the committee. They need more context in order for the average staff person to be able to interpret in a meaningful way.

I am unsure how this will impact me as of yet. F1 looks pretty good with starting later in August and ending later in december. I like that study days are grouped together and not broken up by exams.

may work, but concern about last exam day for student travel, etc.

There are advantages to both schedules. Starting so early is a problem, as noted, but finishing as late as the 22nd of December is equally problematic and going back to holding classes on Labor Day is also an issue.

I've never seen this before

The last day of exams is very close to Christmas and if there is a storm some students may not be able to make it home for the holidays.

This would push student travel closer to Christmas holidays which increases stress and the amount of money needed to get to distant homes for students.

I worked at Ithaca College where the exam period occasionally ended on December 22 and it was challenging for students who had to travel a distance -- especially if the weather was inclement and flights were delayed. An advantage for students is that there is more time after Thanksgiving break to complete projects and papers. It is also nice to have more time in August to prepare for the start of the semester.

Current calendar has more time to prepare for different class finals.

Academically, it seems better, particularly to reduce the study and exam period if deemed too long. F2 is probably better in terms of starting somewhat later, but as late as F1. As for the variation and holding class on Labor Day, I strongly recommend against that since doing so would take away a staff holiday and they have fewer days off and less flexibility than students or faculty.

I neither teach nor take classes, so the course schedule does not effect me.

I can understand the reasoning of the summer break being too short and August daycare issues. My only concern would be holding classes on Labor Day. This may get some push back from students and faculty.

Looks like it pretty much just shifts everything by a week. Not sure what that buys us.

Pushing the semester end that close to the holidays makes travel difficult from a budget standpoint for some students. Having more classes after the thanksgiving break encourages students to actually return from thanksgiving break even when they do not have finals.

Classes start a bit later which is nice but when they end later, it reduces the amount of time for faculty & staff to wrap up the Fall Semester & start preparing for the Spring Semester. That break between semesters is key. Plus, staff like to take some additional time off around the holidays. This shortening of the semester breaks makes that much harder to do. Please remember, staff go 18 weeks without a paid day off in the spring semester. We need that time around the holidays.

It currently feels as though the year extends too close to Christmas, this alternative puts it even closer.

Moving the August days to December works well, and the later start date solve a lot of problems. However, having classes start on a Monday means any orientation with students must be done on the weekend, when staffing is very difficult.

larger instruction block after Thanksgiving, but pushes end date very close to Christmas

how would the last day of exams (Dec 22) work in conjunction with when final grades are due

Doesn't make a huge difference

We rely on Student workers for to support our operations during the summer. It would impact our ability to provide adequate staff during the busy season. From my experience with our student team, i can also imagine that flying back home so close to the holidays may be more expensive. Travel delays may be more likely due to the weather. I also think that pushing the semester to a later time may affect the student morale. On the other hand more time in the summer may be appreciated.

I like the extra week before the labor day break in F1 and the exam schedule looks really tight in the proposed F1. There should be fewer exams on weekends.

Ending December 22 is really late. I'll be tough to get grades in on time before the actual holidays and doesn't permit much time for travel for the holidays. F1's suggestion for Fall Recognition/Commencement is in an odd place - in the middle of the exam period. F1 does permit for a later start to the semester which permits a longer summer/internship period.

I agree that the study/exam period needs to be shortened and the last 7 class days on the current schedule have

diminished value. However, I'm not certain that moving the four August days into December provides the value back into the schedule. Maybe it would work. Why is the fall recognition before the end of exams in F1?

I especially don't like the idea of holding class on Labor Day as it may be grounds for having laborers labor. In essence, the celebration of our labor laws and rights should have a day of no labor.

I don't like the variation suggestion of classes on Labor Day or 1-day fall break. The basic structure looks okay, but runs quite late into December if there is significant exam/paper grading to do. Not sure it makes sense to hold exams after Commencement. If I understand the proposed changes to orientation, it looks like it will now be on a Sunday rather than Monday. This will affect negatively affect the entire Graduate School staff and many others responsible for helping orient 900 new graduate students - I don't know if we will have as many volunteers/guest speakers/venue and staffing options. We will likely have to pay overtime on union staff such as custodians. (On the plus side, we can perhaps park for free?) It sounds like we will be shortening winter break and elongating summer break in any model. I am not sure that is necessary/desirable. A 16-day winter break seems way too short.

this doesn't affect me

I've overheard some students talking about how they are basically stuck on campus through finals because their last final is at the end of the period, and they are slightly annoyed at leaving so late for Christmas. At the same time however giving staff the chance for a small break at the end of summer services (for those of us who do them) is great. Only thing that needs to be kept in mind is that the dining units need about 3 days to do their hardcore cleaning at the end of the semester. If they are stuck being open till the 22nd that puts them with 1 cleaning day as the 24th is a holiday.

I like F1 gives more time for classes between Thanksgiving break and exams so more substantive stuff can be covered. I'm unsure if I like F1 better because if you are going to push back exams why not give the entire Thanksgiving week off? Students often skip classes/check out that week anyway.

I like the later start date but I think one of the issues that is becoming more apparent is that orientation needs any additional day to fit in all of the college events, student created programs, and mandated events. This does not lengthen orientation and I think a Thursday move-in is more problematic for families.

last year the end of the semester was quite far from December 25th, but other years they are much closer. I would want to see how this change would affect the end of the semester on those type of years. For example residence halls must retain staff two days after finals end would that mean going up to the holiday?

F1 has 7 straight days of exams without a study day. It also has exams on a Sunday. What are the staff/faculty implications of this?

Labor day is a big holiday for faculty and staff with Children who aren't in school yet. how will classes on the holiday affect them? Yet, reducing fall break may affect students ability to leave town.

Currently the class time between Thanksgiving and Winter Break is too short. I tend to lose concentration coming back from Thanksgiving and by the time my head is back into class mode classes are over.

The potential of holding class on Labor Day is problematic as it is a vacation day for support staff.

A longer August break is helpful. But do not want classes on Labor Day. Having classes on Labor Day would create further childcare problems for employees as this is a school and daycare holiday.

it may be easier for parents who are bringing their student back to school to do so over the weekend, and so the orientation on the weekend might be difficult in this respect

end of semester seems very close to holiday

I don't think class should be held on Labor Day

It does not provide any new advantages or disadvantages for our program.

I don't think classes should be held on Labor Day

we need labor day off !! But the August child care trouble is tricky.

Labor Day is a Federal Holiday. The idea of taking away a holiday is not well thought out.

I agree the 2-day Fall break works, as does the 3 day Thanksgiving day break, and that end of August child care is very tricky. The days after Thanksgiving break look like a much more effective schedule for the purposes of classes, I just am unsure if there will be pushback for students ending so late. Students seem to time their winter internships over January, so it may not matter to them.

The labor day holiday is for classes and some university offices only. The university still operates; libraries, dining, facilities. Not making it a holiday during the second week of the semester seems very reasonable.

I like that it is moved back a week, but I don't know if weekend orientation is best. Additionally, as the director of PE this cuts a full weekend that we can offer outdoor classes.