

S2FacAgree

Timing of spring break is better. Reduced exam period is fine.

Having the longer break closer to the middle of the semester makes more sense academically. The reduced overlap with the Ithaca City Schools calendar isn't ideal, but the better positioning of the longer break is an improvement.

The Motivators are correct.

This seems ok although it also doesn't seem like much of a change

breaks are better positioned, especially considering Ithaca weather and winter doldrums

Spring break in the first week of March is great. It aligns with my conference schedule :) It would help to move graduation earlier though. What is a senior day!?

Spring Break is located where it should be.

Makes sense. I like this more than S1.

Longer break first

1. Longer break in March is perfect! The preceding academic period is long enough to actually get somewhere with teaching material and even test it before break. 2) The short break is well placed to allow some destressing without creating major interruption just before end of semester. The current calendar is simply untenable.

The first break arrives after 5 full weeks of classes, instead of three. Doesn't matter much which is the long versus short break.

I think it's important to preserve the longer January break, and I like the concept of swapping the two semester breaks (earlier week-long break, later 2-day break).

both very similar but F2 means a longer winter break, which is good

Having the full spring break come early is a good break for students. Remember that many students cannot get away for partial weeks. I think a Wednesday start is better than Thursday. With a Thursday start, many students won't come back until the following Monday.

Weeklong break in early March works better academically than current Feb break. And second short break provides relief for stressed students before finals.

Reversing the order of the breaks would be worth trying.

yes! for all of the "S2 motivator" reasons mentioned in the summary.

Except starting classes on a Thursday. Please start on Wednesday.

February break needs to be later than current. Winter break is important for International education opportunities, especially in the Global South. Our goal as a University is to increase students participation (to 50% or so), so it is important to keep the time slot open.

An improvement is a reversal of the break lengths. Academically this is better. But our students are still disadvantaged by the late semester end.

I am intrigued by this flipped break idea.

Week-long break earlier is much better

This is the best spring option. It maintains the late Jan start date and moves spring break to March, when it is most needed. Feb and March are very bleak in Ithaca and it improves everyone's morale to be able to escape during that time; by April the weather has improved so getting out of town doesn't seem as necessary. Best to reduce exam period.

I like this plan better than S1. If we decide to move the first break to an odd time, at least it is a full week.

Like the order of the breaks but many students use the current arrangement to get caught up on classes.

I agree with the adjustment of the timing of the breaks.

An earlier spring break is less disruptive to the schedule than having an early and short mid-winter break.

I think it's way better that Springbreak corresponds more closely to mid semester.

I like this, but think that the full break is still coming too early.

Yes I think this would be a significant improvement, to allow a good break around reasonably timed prelims. Again it would be great if the breaks aligned with those of local schools.

Breaks better placed

Like the full week earlier. Better for stress

I like full week break in early March. I find the two day break in April optional. I would give them two 3-day weekends rather than the two day break written in here.

my first choice. I like the break in the middle

Better distribution of breaks.

The long break earlier seems attractive for mental health reasons, i.e. weather

Having the long break earlier would break up the long winter stretch in the spring semester better.

Assuming the week long Break would be after the first round of prelims? Otherwise the students might not take the time off as needed. Otherwise, an earlier Break seems appropriate, better aligning with winter doldrums that occurs at this time.

S2 is an interesting and creative solution. I agree that it would improve the flow of the semester for student learning. With the Wednesday instead of Thursday start in January (as in the "Variation" mentioned above), it could work very nicely.

again, it's very hard to give just one answer to your survey without seeing all the possibilities up front. But I do agree with this one that the two breaks as they are now are mistimed.

Two breaks are better placed

Students are ready for the one week break earlier, and having the shorter time later is preferable.

this break design makes more sense that students will have spring break fun earlier and use the little break as it is intended - not to travel but to catch up on work and get a breather. It also respects the winter break space and not shorten that so that international grad students can still have this time to go home for visits that may be on the other side of the world. Also commencement on memorial day is not great for staff but it does work well for families that have to travel from far places to see their students graduate. I believe this is helpful to them.

I think this is decidedly better than the current system, although I think the best solution is to move spring break to the next week in March (as it used to be) and forget about the 2-day break entirely.

If the break is appropriate academically, then it is worthwhile making this change. Still would prefer that it lined up with school.

First part of the semester gives solid time to develop momentum in a class

I like this one best - the bigger break in March, which is a horrible time of year. I strongly prefer the earlier end to exam period to release students and faculty alike.

Same reason: February break is too early and an earlier long break could potentially be more productive.

The breaks are spaced nicely over the semester and the long Spring break is placed at an appropriate time.

Feb break makes no sense as it stands.

More time until first break is good. Early week long break seems fine.

Maintains 4 week winter (Dec.-Jan.) break.

This does seem more balanced

Nice to have spring break earlier

I like the earlier "spring" break.

current Feb break is wasted. put time where it will do some good

Current spring break is too late.

Puts our spring break more in line with other institutions.

The current February break occurs too early, so I like the idea of having that two-day break moved to April. Placement of the spring break is already disconnected from many local public school spring vacations, so placing it in the midst of the semester (which I find attractive) doesn't affect that.

This is the optimal spring solution. Provides a long January to create study abroad / international opportunities for students. Allows faculty to productively fully engage their research for a solid month before teaching restarts and get grants out the door while focusing on that and not teaching. I highly support this plan over all others.

Ending on a Thursday is good. Indifferent about the breaks -- we know the students will take more time in April anyway.

I love the reversed breaks! I think that, psychologically, it is important to have the longer break when the cold, grey winter is still going on in Ithaca.

The timing of the breaks makes much more sense.

This is the logical arrangement - a spring break that isn't a month before classes end. Is there a reason this break can't come in week 7, closer to the middle of the semester? This could happen without changing the current proposed April break.

Best placement of February break.

Makes sense to have one longer break in March and a shorter break later on.

Better positioning of the breaks.

Reversing the order of the break, putting the longer break closer to the middle of the semester (rather than close to the end), seems to make sense in terms of pedagogy and student energy. Again, I'm not sure why one day gets moved from January to May, though at least in this model the semester is equally long for MW and TR classes.

I like this - the spring break is roughly placed right. Not sure if we really need the two additional days in April - what is that supposed to be for? At that point we may just want to be finished asap

Jan 28 works best for students enrolled in field trips abroad

The longer earlier break might help, and does align spring break with other schools. Students might enjoy having the break while it is still 'winter' in Ithaca, compared to early April. Academically, I don't see too much of a difference, but it could be a slight improvement. In either case I would prefer the Wednesday start.

Reversing the breaks is optimal for students who don't like central NY winters, and works well academically.

- Having an extra day between final exams and graduation would provide breathing room for getting final grades and checking that seniors have met all graduation requirements (in addition to providing time to get rooms ready.
 - With an earlier start will there be no winter session?
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Keeping a long winter break is important. I see both S1 and S2 to be as good as what we have now

Looks like the best solution to the problem of Spring break

I prefer this calendar and have the Spring break earlier - it's really too late with the regular calendar. During the February break many students stay at Cornell and arrive in April very very tired and stressed out. We need to have the Spring break earlier, move the February break later. It's a good idea to begin and finish one day later and to have a shorter window for the exam period. I prefer this one.

Starting the Wednesday would be a good idea if we did go with this option

This would work. I am still unsure of the need for more than 3 study days, and so many exam days for that matter.

Fantastic!

It's an improvement, though not optimal. I'd prefer to retain the second break as the longer of the two.

first break is later and better placed in semester. Ok to have long break, then short one.

Evens out the calendar. Spring Break earlier. There should be classes on that last Friday.

Better timing of spring break.

reversing order of breaks makes sense to me. I wonder about the necessity of the second break at this time. WHY do we need it in April? Can understand the need in Feb, but not in April. Would rather finish term earlier. Agree with shortening exam period.

Better positioning of breaks

I like the idea of reversing the order of the two breaks

Keeps the long winter break which is essential for faculty to be able to travel for talks/committees and spend time in grant proposal and course preparation. It also makes it easier for international students/staff to visit their families for Christmas.

Well-placed Spring Break. Later 2-day April Break will occasionally coincide with various religious holidays (e.g., Easter and Passover in 2020).

I like the idea of a longer spring break placed earlier in the semester - would reduce the winter stress considerably.

Breaks are better positioned. I like the idea of the long break first.

I don't think it is the ideal set up but a long break in the middle of the semester is what we need.

The spring break placement seems better this way. Although I don't think the first week of classes should only have two days - it would be better to start on a Mon, Tues, or Wed.

Better than S1

I like the idea of an earlier spring break that makes more sense academically.

The current spring break is WAY too late--students are absolutely dead with fatigue by the time it arrives, and it makes teaching in the spring really difficult. I would hope that the second, shorter break would overlap with the ICSD April break.

Leaves a long winter break when combined with F1 or F2.

Reversing the two breaks would be a great improvement.

better than s1

The pacing and spacing of the two breaks makes much more sense in this scenario than in the S1 framework.

This is better academically. I'm sure many students would prefer a later break to take advantage of nice weather in popular spring-break destinations. That argument is less compelling than improved pedagogy.

but I think the second break isn't needed

This places the major breaks more-or-less at equal distances apart, which is valuable for faculty, staff, and students.

I believe that reversing the order of the breaks would indeed be beneficial academically.

just seems 'neat', well organized

Great idea, actually --have a weeks break to escape winter doldrums. Better than S-1

This provides a meaningful break at a point in the semester when students will really need it. The longer break also means that students who live far away will be able to consider leaving campus.

Like placement of first longer break. Question the need for a second 2-day break.