

S3StaffAgree

The break's are placed well (observing President's Day and giving the students a real "spring break" during March). Students start a little early, allowing Commencement to be moved and not interfere with Memorial Day Weekend.

Way better. Moving graduation up is key.

An earlier end of classes and Commencement would be positive for so many reasons. Our students would have many opportunities for longer internships and summer work. Not having Commencement on a holiday weekend is also outstanding for hopefully students, but for Faculty and Staff too. Hopefully more faculty would participate in the Commencement exercises which is so meaningful for our graduates. The best part is walking between the Faculty between Stimson and Day Hall. And for all staff to be able to enjoy a holiday weekend with their families. So many staff are required to work and so many volunteer. It would also allow more staff to be able to volunteer. We run short sometimes because of the holiday weekend.

My only concern is if the fall calendar ends later and the spring starts earlier students that participate in winter classes or activities/programs will be limited. I really like the idea of ending earlier as it gives a longer summer break and allows students/families/staff to enjoy memorial weekend. Hopefully the weather wouldn't be as hot either that day if it is earlier in May for the outdoor ceremonies.

Students don't need so much time off between semesters, so earlier return to campus is a big improvement! Also, earlier end to Spring semester allows for a real "summer break" and maybe some downtime before starting summer jobs and internships. Students need more built-in or embedded downtime to the schedule of the calendar year.

By not having commencement on Memorial Day allows the students to obtain summer work more easily. Students are better able to compete for jobs after commencement with other peer institution. Additional reasons not to have commencement on Memorial Day weekend - it is a holiday, pricing for rentals is increased and travel via air/car, etc is more expensive during this holiday season. Cornell pays holiday pay for this commencement on Memorial Day weekend requiring staff to work. Some staff are required to work this holiday weekend every year. Lastly, staff is asked repetitively asked to volunteer during this 3 day break when their kids, partners and/or friends are on vacation year after year.

Winter break is shorter, summer is longer, and the semester ends prior to Memorial Day weekend. Fabulous!

Spring break is back more closely to where it used to be and I like graduation earlier

An earlier start in January supports the shorter February break -- better proportioned. Quality instruction time still exists after the second, longer break.

Moving things to earlier would help a lot with date/internship/summer work concerns that come up a lot with the late May end.

This one makes the most sense to me. Academically students really don't need such a long time between the semesters. Getting out early at the end improves work and internship opportunities. It would be nice not to have graduation on the holiday weekend. Breaks are well spaced.

I hear students say the winter break is too long (though too short to take up another project). I believe they'd rather have a longer summer break. I don't have a personal preference, though it may be more difficult for me to have my beginning-of-semester tasks done in time.

winter break is now quite short for those who travel overseas (back home), but good for other students. Good spacing of breaks

It seems to make more sense for an earlier start date in January—addresses the issue of such a long break for students, earlier spring break and the feb. break makes more sense based on earlier Jan start date. Moving commencement off from memorial day weekend while a huge change would be welcomed by staff (more might volunteer) and would be cost-effective in this period of budget issues, no?

While drastic, I do think that it could be the best solution of the three so far. I have heard from many students that the winter break is too long and that the summer break is too short. This would help to resolve that.

Moves spring break back a week. Eliminates Memorial holiday and graduation conflicts. Keeps February break aligned with holiday.

- I like this best. Moving classes to January feels better for the sake of a longer summer... - Early commencement means releasing people (students, staff, faculty) to do other things early

Moving commencement 2 weeks earlier would be a significant improvement to the university calendar and justify starting the spring semester the 2nd week in January. The main spring break is still on the later end but more within the range for other schools' breaks.

Earlier spring break and longer summer are great improvements.

Moving up the calendar provides enough time to finish classes and commencement ahead of June while lengthening summer break.

starting & ending earlier for long summer is great!

I agree to move graduation, it's the first real break for staff.

Seems like a good idea to shorten winter break.

I'm just repeating myself at this point, but I think having the mini-break on President's Day weekend and the long break on the last week of March is the best spacing between the two, and gives employees with kids some time during the local school break, while not pushing spring break too far into April, which is very late compared to the rest of the country. Since many complained about the early January start date - *don't* start so early, but do start on a Monday (January 22, thereabouts), which is two days earlier than now, and which gives you the two days to allow for the mini-break. End classes the way they used to be - first Friday of May. Shorten study period to that weekend, and begin finals on Monday. Run finals either straight through Sunday, or the following Tuesday (if giving them a second weekend as another "study" period). Then 3 days of senior week, with graduating either on Saturday or Sunday of that weekend (which is the third weekend of May). Leaving Memorial Day weekend alone and still allowing students to leave campus somewhat early (if they're not seniors). This would benefit everyone by: a) Not cutting Winter break too short (if you start Monday, January 23/thereabouts), which would make most students happier and apparently most faculty. b) Starting on a Monday gives you leeway to allow for the February 2 day break, which should be President's Day week - either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday of that week.....such that it coincides with local school breaks. This makes employees with kids happier. It also still gives you a 4 week duration between the first day of classes and February break, thus not interfering with faculty instruction too much. c) Then a 4 week duration until last week of March for the longer spring break. d) The full month of April plus the first week of May for instruction - with end of classes on the first Friday of May (which many faculty cancel the last day of classes anyway)). This shortens the whole drinking weekend-fest of Slope Day which currently starts Wednesday. Wednesday through Sunday for drinking or studying is too long for either activity. e) Finals for 7 days (Monday-Sunday, or Monday-Tuesday with a weekend break), and then the students are gone, with only seniors for three days, followed by Commencement on the third weekend of May (roughly May 21st). This avoids Memorial Day weekend so that employees don't have to work, and it still gives students the ability to get off-campus earlier, especially if they're underclassmen. But May 8 for the end of exams is too early. If ending Finals on a Tuesdays leaves too little time for dorm cleaning before that weekend's graduation, then do finals on Monday-Sunday, leaving a whole week for seniors and facilities people, and still putting Commencement on the third weekend of May. Personally, I would hate to have a final on Sunday, but I'm not sure it's possible to squeeze all the finals between Monday and Saturday - if you can, that might be the best option. The above schedule would make a variety of people happy and would be the best compromise for all parties at all times of the semester (beginning, middle, end).

S3 makes the winter break shorter, but I like that the semester ends in Mid-may.

The spring semester is too long and too intense--staff need to go, at break-neck speed, from Martin Luther King Day to Memorial Day without a break.

I like this one. Starting earlier in January is great since I believe there's a lot of wasted time in January and I love the idea of having Commencement on a weekend that is not a holiday weekend. Many of us have to work and we'd like to have a real holiday weekend for once.

Earlier end to class helpful for those starting summer internships. Earlier graduation relieves the travel pressure around Memorial Day weekend.

If you're not doing some kind of winter short-term, I don't see why break goes into late January. This would free students up earlier to help with agricultural research, which would be a huge boon to SIPS.

Best choice. This tying of Commencement to Memorial Day weekend is ludicrous, especially for staff who haven't had a university holiday in months and have their three-day weekend ruined by having to work Commencement.

this is the best option. moving the whole semester up is comparable to other schools and allows memorial day weekend to be spent celebrating the holiday rather than commencement.

I think commencement should definitely be before memorial Day weekend, but two weeks? If there is something driving the two week shift as opposed to one week, then OK. I think for most staff (and probably many faculty), shifting commencement away from Memorial Day weekend is a big priority.

It'd be great to NOT have graduation on Memorial Day weekend. As a staff member, I'd be much more able/willing to help if I didn't have to give up that holiday weekend every year.

Starting earlier is a big boost as it means more time in the summer and PLEASE get commencement off memorial day. You will get more volunteers.

I think that the intermission between fall and spring semester is extremely long and should be shortened. with a longer summer break students will have more opportunity to explore, find internships and work between semesters.

Expands summer construction projects opportunities considerably.

This combined with an early fall start date lengthens summer and gives you more wiggle room in December. Perhaps even considering starting winter break on thanksgiving.

i like the idea of classes starting earlier and ending earlier and that the graduation is not on Memorial weekend

I agree that this calendar improves upon the current spring, but wonder how Spring Transfers/Arrivals will get here so early--there does not seem to be as much time for their orientation, nor Sorority/Fraternity recruitment, which I know is important to some students.

Like this very much. Commencement occurs on a holiday weekend which for many staff, is required to work and is one of the few actual holiday weekends provided by the University. Comp day does not adequately replace having to work a holiday weekend. Also, provides students time to transition prior to starting summer internships. Winter break is too long.

This schedule is ideal for staff working in academic departments. Moving the last 8 class days into January leaves less "down time", the breaks line up very well with the public schools, and best yet - commencement is not on Memorial weekend, which enables staff to have the full weekend for family and activities.

breaks closer to local schools, earlier finish is nice for preparation for graduation

I think it's important to keep the first break shorter and the second longer due to stresses and pressures that occur toward the end of the semester. I also am highly in favor of pulling back commencement weekend and starting earlier in January. Students have reported to me that being home for so long over the winter is not necessarily a positive thing and that all their friends have left home by the end of the first week in January anyway.

Again better than current and better than S2 because it moves the semester forward (no more Memorial Day graduation) AND the long March break is better timed for students. Still don't see need for two winter breaks. Study/exams should be no more than 11 days (especially compared to other schools).

earlier start to summer

It's good to wrap up the spring semester early.

I like this one best of all. Minimizes winter break. Gives an extra week in the summer for getting a job

Move commencement off of Memorial Day weekend

The earlier commencement will greatly help our students with internships and other jobs during the summer.

This reduces a long, unproductive time during the winter and provides opportunity for summer work.

While this would eliminate the winter session 3 week course option the longer summer would allow students to

take better internships and more extra classes if they need to catch up.

LOVE it! That gives them the "more summer" they are looking for. Gives staff more time to prepare for summer courses. Always hated commencement on Memorial day weekend

I like the earlier commencement, and I like the test period not being broken up.

Moving graduation would reduce payroll! and it would be similar to our peers. We always have one of the latest graduations.

Starting earlier so Commencement is not on the holiday weekend and still has two breaks for students.

I completely agree with this scenario! Holding commencement earlier would be wonderful. It would allow staff/faculty and their families to enjoy a holiday weekend. There would also be more time for students to pursue summer classes or internships with more time during summer break. The timing of the two breaks also seems to work out well in this scenario. I strongly agree!

This seems like a significant change that improves the spring semester in several areas, not least of which is moving Commencement away from Memorial Day.

I like that this one is done May 14th. I feel the other framework's are way to late in May.

This Spring schedule seems to make a lot of sense. With classes starting earlier, and the students still getting their 2 breaks...it allows for commencement to take place early as well...giving students and their families...staff and faculty the ability to actually enjoy the Memorial weekend!

Commencement interrupts the Memorial Day holiday/long weekend.

the best spring option

I really like how commencement is moves. The breaks still end up good timing. This is how my college did it.. 4 weeks them Feb break, 4 weeks then spring break, 4 weeks then done with classes

Moves graduation up, allow for students who will be working or doing internships to start earlier.

I like the longer summer for students to have jobs and faculty to do work.

Get Commencement off of Memorial Day weekend!

i like it better because it places commencement earlier in the month April might be problematic for slope day. I wonder how the shortened winter break will impact facility repairs and maintenance that take place during that time. good positioning of spring break

An earlier graduation makes for improved summer employment

I think S3 improves the calendar based on the following: - moves commencement away from Memorial Day. - splits the semester into 4 week "sections" provides for more balance. - full week of instruction the last week of classes could move Slope Day back to a Friday. - 4 full study days (assuming Slope Day is Friday.)

This would greatly shorten the winter break window (which will impact some work, but most major projects can't fit into winter break anyway), but would further help the summer break window for projects.

Better for participation in spring/summer field work.

This would certainly lengthen the summer break, and the Feb break would be a good length of time into the semester. The spring week-long break is still close to the end of the semester, though.

While I understand that this would make gearing up for the start of the semester, the overall cycle has a good feel. Moving commencement is a great idea.

I prefer an earlier finish to the semester.

Reduces the winter break (which may be too long?), but greatly improves when the semester ends, better positions the distribution of breaks, increases length of summer break. This is really good.

shortens the winter break, condenses the exam period and does move commencement away from the holiday

weekend, however it does move it to Mother's Day which will be an issue for some. Was the scenario of having commencement during the week explored? Or having it on Saturday instead of Sunday?

This calendar is preferable because it allows more time for internships and jobs over the summer. Winter break is in a way wasted time after New Year's day. The break doesn't give them much time to be productive so it is best to shift those days into the bigger summer break.

Love the idea of moving Commencement. I have worked commencement for over 20 years and it strikes me earlier is better.

longer summer, gets commencement away from Memorial Day Weekend; on the drawbacks, break between semesters could be very short some years

I think commencement on a Memorial day is difficult for staff who have to work this event on a holiday when they should be with family.

between semesters is very long

S3 framework looks great because spring break is not late, the study period is shortened to an appropriate length and there will be more time to get ready for graduation/students can go home earlier.

This seems to address the listed problems, but how badly will the changed commencement throw off the alumni and local businesses? A long summer sounds like a good thing for students.

The breaks are better aligned with the instructional days.

As a staff member, I like the idea of moving Commencement to an earlier date. From a student perspective, I believe it will be beneficial for students to begin their summer break earlier because of internships and jobs. I am not certain of the impact of shortening winter break, but I believe that Cornell is unique with a very long winter session. It would be great if we could shorten winter session by at least a week.

I very much like the idea of early Summer break even though it means starting Spring semester one week early.

More aligned with other institutions

Starting earlier may be tougher on all of us but it has some benefits. It provides more time for catering and housekeeping to do their work before the summer events begin (alum days and all). It lessens some of the stress on dining staff as there is now less time we must have vacation time saved to cover. It relieves stress on the city as well. Since normally graduation between the two colleges (Cornell and IC) generally fall so close together. This will relieve stress on the city and on parents and family coming for graduation (allowing them to find accommodations easier)

Commencement is off from Memorial Day weekend. Students spring break aligns with other schools.

While I would advocate for the later January start date (14th) I think getting the students done in early May would make summer and year round programs easier to manage. It also gives the students more time in the summer for internships and travel.

Excellent. Having Commencement over Memorial Day weekend is unfair to staff who have to work the weekend (and don't get "comp time" in return.) Plus, getting undergraduate students out earlier gives those who want/need to work more opportunities to do that.

I like this schedule a lot but worry a bit about the early start date. This combined with a later fall end date really squeezes the amount of time between semesters. This is similar to what I experienced at the University of Michigan as a graduate student. It was hard to fully recover from the fall semester with such an early spring semester start date. On the other hand, there is a bit more of a break here so it may be ok.

Potentially, the additional two weeks of summer would be a financial plus for Conference Services and give Facilities more opportunities for repair and maintenance projects. As a former student, I appreciate the earlier start of summer as it would be a significant improvement for competitive internships and summer employment.

Allows for a longer summer.

Moving commencement away from Memorial Day weekend would be AWESOME!!!!

Concern: If this were to really go into effect by 2018, how would the impact hotels, house rentals etc. for commencement?

I think having commencement two weeks earlier benefits student (not only undergrad) as it give more time for internships and job starts for the summer and after commencement. Some student are at a disadvantage for internships since we end so late in May. In addition our recent grads have far less time to move/settle etc. for new jobs many in cities far away.

Shorter January break and earlier end to semester would benefit summer intern and work opportunities.

I don't see the value in the extended January vacation. S3 provides more balance around the breaks than S4.

Current winter break is too long. This approach fixes that and allows commencement to be 2 weeks earlier. Are there any impacts upon spring sports and other activities?

It allows students to have a longer summer

I like starting earlier - and graduation sooner. I think it will make it seem like summer starts earlier.

I prefer the switched breaks in s2 and this earlier start

I like this option with earlier start, earlier commencement, two breaks

Moving commencement to an earlier date makes a great deal of sense

Best option. The late Jan start has kids home where they can't be that productive too long. Also, the longer summer lets them get a jump start on internships and opportunities over other college kids.

Winter break is too long, the spring break might be a better fit in some years with the public school calendar

Gets rid of long, useless winter break, and moves commencement much earlier.

Like the best this option - earlier commencement

could work, we don't use January very efficiently now

Allows more time for software systems upgrades and maintenance prior to the start of Summer sessions and Conference season.

Earlier Graduation is good. Local hotels and students will need to be updated as soon as it is decided. Parents have hotels booked.

The early start of the semester allows us to advance summer work projects two weeks earlier. This gives us 13 weeks of construction vs 11weeks, which can be very valuable.

Anything to change commencement day!!

Summer break is extended

A longer summer is preferable, and there's not much happening in January. A caution is to make sure Ithaca College commencement is not the same weekend, as this city cannot handle both events at the same time.

Best option to get Commencement off of Memorial Day weekend!

Winter break is too long as is -- the shortened winter break is a better use of students' and faculty member's time. Having an earlier Commencement makes since, too -- let the Seniors enjoy their last bit of pure free time before starting their jobs.

so that Commencement does not fall on Memorial Day Weekend

this is my favorite Spring solution.

Commencement should be earlier than Memorial Day weekend, to allow students to be competitive for summer internships/employment and also to allow staff to take advantage of the first paid day off they have between the end of January and the end of May. The student breaks should not be considered staff breaks as well, very few, if any, campus offices close simply because students are not on campus.

schedule seems more streamlined

Moves commencement up; longer summer for students.

More staff would be able to travel for Memorial Day.

Finally get a Memorial Day weekend with my family!

I think this shifts in a much better way that is aligned with various other university functions, and it extends the summer

This is the best spring option. Feb break is over president's day, perhaps we can officially close the university to help faculty and staff with childcare issues? The university should look into giving staff presidents day off as an official holiday. This was in the plans the last time the academic calendar was reviewed, but it never happened. An earlier commencement will be beneficial to the many staff and faculty that have worked over every memorial day weekend their entire career. The longer summer would help students and faculty would give both more time to pursue opportunities over break.

By starting earlier, the positioning of the breaks is improved. Having 2 breaks provides balance between fall and spring semesters. Extremely helpful to move Commencement up 2 weeks.

LOVE this one!

Seems to distribute the weeks of classes better throughout the semester. What I'm unsure about is the early start of the semester. I think this is my second choice for the spring frameworks; S4 is my top choice.

Earlier start to semester; earlier end to semester. Parallels fall semester structure.

Feb break alignment stays with the ICSD. Moves grad up which is better for allowing for longer summer.

This is great! Winter break is currently way too long.

this schedule is better for students who work during the summer, since it gives them a bigger block of time for that

Students always seem to complain about the length of the intercession. It is too much, they lose momentum. This looks great. Also, Feb break now makes perfect sense.

moves the whole spring calendar so we start earlier and end earlier! much better... shortens the holiday break, and gives me back Memorial Day weekend..