

S4FacDisagree

January start too early.

Like S3, this schedule would reduce the time faculty have to spend on other vital parts of our jobs - particularly the preparation of grant proposals to fund our labs and research programs. This is a vital part of our careers, and we need to have the time to do this well, or I fear our funding rates will decrease! This schedule would also eliminate the possibility of winter term courses, which are a valued part of the Cornell experience for many students. Please do not institute this schedule, or S4!

Short break between semesters. Spring break too early.

I'll repeat my earlier comments that the shortened winter break would make our already terrible mental health situation much worse, would be unacceptable for students who have to travel long distances to see family, and would hurt recruiting at a time when we will need all the help we can get in that area. I disagree with this plan in an extreme manner.

Leave January alone. Spring break is too early.

I like January break, and this would make January field courses short or nonexistent

we do need both breaks; it's Ithaca. I don't see why commencement on Memorial Day is a problem.

Two breaks are important.

students should have more than one break, same as S3 - want less critical commuting time in January

Need two breaks. S4 constrains academic engagement/enrichment activities that currently occur in January prior to the start of the semester, and also constrains Cornell athletic team training activities.

same as for S3

Starting Jan 12 is far too early, we need a longer break to recover.

A second short break is good for everyone involved, and this scheme eliminates that break.

As with S3, I believe an earlier start in January is counterproductive (see that comment for specifics). Also, I do believe the short 2-day break serves as an important mental reset for our students.

won't be able to have special short courses, travel experiences in January. It is good to have graduation on Memorial Day weekend.

See my previous comments about time in January for international travel.

Shortening the winter break would completely interfere with a winter course I am involved in with 20 students. It's also a good time for others to go to conferences and write articles without academic disruptions. Strongly disagree with S4

Current January break is essential for international courses and travel. also faculty need this for grant work and course preparation.

The revised start date seems reasonable, but it is beneficial to have 2 breaks in the spring. It would be best if the second break had a high probability of overlapping with the ICSD spring break.

For the same reasons stated for S3

we should keep a second break, in some form, during the spring

Same reason as S3. The weather in early-mid January is usually too bad for most flights to get into Ithaca on time. The late January start seems like a necessity. Also, having two breaks seems important, but I think cutting the study/exam period by two days or repositioning the spring break would be fine.

Not a good idea to remove the small spring break.

Same problems with shortened winter break lister for S3. Grant writing and student international experience.

Starting early in Jan is a terrible idea.

As a faculty member intensively involved in both teaching and research, I need a winter break of the current size to catch up on the research part. Many students and faculty have seasonal affective disorder (winter depression), and deal with it in part by spending the winter break in an area with better light. It's as much as 30% by some estimates. For these individuals moving a week of semester days with good light to the month with the worst light would be a serious problem. The two-day winter break addresses a serious issue of stress among students, it is a mistake to cut it.

Too early start to semester.

I think the start is too early for an adequate winter break allowing for travel and class prep, and I think one break is insufficient during the long gray Ithaca "spring"

This is a terrible schedule. Effectively eliminating Jan break cuts off many travel research and study options for those of us who work abroad. I realize this does extend the summer, but for many of us January is the only time it is feasible to do research in certain parts of the world (parts of the tropics). Many valuable short study abroad trips are also run during this time, and moving them to the summer would be problematic for students who are also working, doing internships, etc. Being on campus in Jan would also increase everyone's heating bills, not to mention it is a generally awful time to be in Ithaca. Why should we have to be here in January instead of in May, when it is much better weather? Having the long January break is one reason some of us faculty decided to take jobs here in the first place, and is an accepted compromise we make with having to live in a cold, dark winter.

The February break is valuable. The longer break time between fall and spring semesters is essential for preparation and recharging. The summer break is already long enough.

Starts too early (how about starting Jan 17/18?) 2 breaks are nice for employees with kids.

Makes it difficult for international students to go home.

We should have the Feb break. The students seem to get some relief from it. And an early January start date is a bad idea.

I disagree with 1-3 in the S4 motivator list.

A later commencement is desirable - February break is good if it isn't too early.

Prefer starting in a Monday, but 2nd choice remove Feb break

The February break IS necessary, especially in years in which the winter weather is especially hard.

Too soon to start and too early to end.

I like starting a little earlier than current schedule, but would like to keep President's Day holiday and go slightly more into May for end of term.

two breaks are important for staff morale and student sanity.

Think this does not have enough breaks for students. S3 is far superior, and S3 with long feb break and short later break would be best of all.

Does this accommodate Winter courses? And, one of the main things that Cornell should be looking at is syncing its Spring break with the local K-12. I can't believe that this isn't part of the conversation.

I prefer the longer break between fall and spring semesters.

Positioned too early. Two breaks is better.

Too big a block of classes without break

The academic calendar of the CVM does not fit with this framework. Important distribution coursework and

externship opportunity blocks are planned year round based upon a Memorial Day weekend commencement date. The CVM does not want to break with the rest of the University to hold a separate graduation ceremony, as do the Law School and Med School. Likewise, it is not to the advantage of the students completing their degree requirements to have to continue classes after being allowed to participate in graduation, since their families generally attend commencement exercises and often assist with student relocation efforts immediately after graduation activities.

students need more breaks

need the additional break

I think that the February break is necessary. the winter is pretty harsh in Ithaca.

I think we need two breaks in spring term, esp since it's the second of two semesters. This seems like a long time before having a break. As with some of the other proposals, I support reducing study/exam period slightly.

Long January break is extremely valuable for catching up on research projects, and for course preparation for the Spring term. I feel that shortening it would negatively affect my research and teaching.

Bad option! Prevents January courses, which are valuable experiences.

Starting too early. Fall has 2 breaks, Spring should too, I think.

Compressing the winter break will hinder research activities (travel, panel service, etc.)

Same comment as for S3

again too brief a winter intersession with this proposal

Winter break is very useful for several departmental functions

Classes start too early and there is just one break

Also not a good idea because of the same reasons of the above.

Starting so early in January makes it very difficult for return travel, touring, and January research projects.

Don't like the earlier start (shorter inter-session). No overlap with ICSD breaks. Worse than current but better than starting on Jan. 8.

Winter break is sacred for many, shortening it by this much is sacrilege.

Better than S3, and agreed that the 2 -day break isn't really needed (but, if you have one, at least coordinate it with the schools). This may be the best of the 4 proposed alternatives, but still moves too much into January.

February break is absolutely essential to sanity (for faculty and students, in my opinion). Students in my large undergraduate class look distinctly upbeat right before February break after it was put in place, compared to how they did earlier.

same as S3. The winter break is needed for international study courses. Very difficult to do that only over spring break and after the semester/school year is over.

Need 2 breaks!

want two breaks

This is horrible! Starting classes on January 15 means there is no down time for faculty or students. Students have little time to spend at home (e.g., applying for summer opportunities). A lot of faculty research and proposal writing happens over January break, as does preparation for Spring courses. Having a winter break that is this short would make the entire academic year feel like one uninterrupted slog. This would be awful. Just look at the "sea of green" in this calendar! Students and faculty don't get to recuperate from the Fall semester, and then there is at 8 week stint with no break, followed by a break-less 6 weeks. Was this schedule included just to show how bad things could be? In addition, this schedule destroys the Memorial Day graduation, which is much easier on our graduates'

families and their travel schedules. This is the absolute worst choice.

It shortens the winter break which is an important time for intellectual work, preparation for the spring semester and travel, particularly for international members of the community.

Need two breaks.

Same as S3: I vehemently disagree with any option that gets rid of the long January break.

probably my second choice after S2.

No reason to compress the schedule for an early commencement--and many students likely already have commencement travel plans lined up. Best to give them more lead time if implemented.

Same problem as S3. This cuts into travel time for engaged learning activities in January.

February break is a much needed recuperation and catch-up time for many of our students. Introducing it was the best idea the University enacted in a long time. The time between semesters is much, much needed for research, and the winter break combines both family time (for students and faculty) and research time. Also, many of our students work during the break to offset the costs of Cornell education.

Eliminates too much of the winter recess.

see prior comments

I thin that the between-semester break is not too long and it is necessary to write papers and grants and catch up on work between the semesters

A short break after a month intensive work is valuable in reducing stress, it's not good to drop this. Grad students who are involved in teaching and faculty need a winter break of the current proportions to focus on research, writing, and field work. Currently, grad students who teach some subjects (such as languages and first year writing) need to defer some research to the break, because teaching is too demanding. Taking this away is unfair to the point of being exploitative. The same considerations apply to faculty like me who are active in research. In this, a reduction by one week is a significant reduction. For the 1/4 of the student and teaching population who have seasonal affective disorder, trading long days for short ones is a really really bad idea. It can't be shrugged off, because SAD at the limit is depression, and depression at the limit is life threatening. In this, an incremental week of dark days is non-trivial.

Bad, too. early start disrupts winter travel, faculty prep, and study abroad!!

For the similar reasons as the previous proposition: Break is necessary in the Ithaca winter and having commencement mid-May affects parents. I guess I misspoke, because this is even worse than the previous one. It's best to start as late in January as feasible. We have enough winter weather anyway and both students and faculty like to be able to get away.

An OK start time, but still a bit too early and we definitely need more than spring break! A four day weekend is crucial!

Pre-term activities would be curtained/eliminated.

Please make sure to align Cornell's breaks with those of the Ithaca School District!!

The Feb break is a necessary break for the students, especially in the winter!

We should not start any earlier in January than we already do, especially if we go later into December.

Need time to prepare for Spring classes during January

Does not maintain 4 week winter (Dec.-Jan.) break.

Too few breaks, students will be overly stressed

This has the same problem as S3: starting the semester too early. Give the students a chance to recover and the faculty a chance to do something other than teaching!

I very strongly disagree with this version, both because I feel two breaks are important and because this gives too little time between the two semesters.

Similarly a bad idea like S3. Our peers don't do this. For good reason!

We need two breaks.

Two breaks are better in the spring semester.

Two breaks are necessary.

There is no way that people with kids in the school system can make this work, neither public school break could align w/ Cornell's.

I like this in principle, but only if the term started a week later and shifted it all down because having 8 weeks before spring break is tough to get 2 prelims in without having one of them the week the students return. Also, Students really object to Saturday and Sunday exams. The ones I know would rather have fewer study days in a row, and it broken up more. Shift the last two study days to Saturday and Sunday.

The loss of January really hurts faculty productivity both on research and grant writing. This is a terrible calendar which will leave faculty and students totally burnt out by March.

One break is not enough, I don't think. But I could live with this.

We need two breaks.

No need for graduation earlier, don't start Spring semester early. Exam study period too short

Intersession shortened. Having another short break worked well for students.

If you have two breaks in the fall, you need to have two breaks in the spring. Hold Commencement on the 21st.

Like S3, this S4 framework does not work for people who are offering courses that have winter field trip components. Our course takes students to Asia from Dec. 27-Jan 18/20 so this will not work at all. S4 will also make the summer break too long.

I think this creates too many winter days on campus for students. Winters can be brutal.

You are looking at guaranteed retention problems if this schedule is implemented. This effectively erases all winter study abroad programs. More importantly from where I stand it gets rid of a very important period where many faculty do research or perhaps actually take a small break before we begin teaching again. We need time between semesters to prepare our courses. Junior faculty faced with increasingly stringent tenure expectations can not possibly meet them without a decent winter break.

Significantly reduces winter break research/writing time

Draconian. Breaks help a lot and an early one is a respite that some faculty and students now use very well. I can see this logic one destroying a lot of morale and creating fatigue and stress in faculty and students alike.

This creates long blocks of instruction. I don't see it as an improvement over the current for this reason. I would rather leave the spring calendar as is and move spring break one week earlier.

Doing away with January time just seems like a bad idea: it would essentially abolish winter session, wouldn't it? Plus faculty need it for research, esp. when that research is not in the northern hemisphere, but not only then. Students can line up internships, take classes, write theses.... January is a productive time as it is.

This one is almost as bad as S3, for the same reasons.

Won't work as my students will be on field trip abroad

That's a very long run without a break, particularly if the fall semester runs until Dec. 22 and the winter break is only 2 weeks.

This is like the old spring schedule, but worse, because it starts earlier.

I like the Feb break.

- Need the extra day between the last exam and graduation.
- Two breaks is a good thing, and I think it is necessary.

interferes with national professional meetings

Ending the semester early is good, but I believe students need a few more break during the semester. Just one week of Spring break is not enough.

Although it is attractive to finish the semester early so that student may have a better chance to compete for internships that have an early starting date, it makes the winter break too short (especially in the years when the break is only 20-day long!), effectively making it impossible for anyone to try to conduct any course or study tour during the winter term while still have enough time left to adequately prepare for spring classes.

Memorial Day weekend is better for commencement travel; and, better chance of good weather Students benefit from two breaks

Need the winter break.

this just seems bad all around. Our students need the winter break.

Again, it is not good to short the winter break.

Starts too early.

The February break is necessary for instructors to evaluate the course, how it is going so far and make the necessary changes. Students too need a break from classes or otherwise will arrive too stress out for Spring Break. I like the idea to finish earlier, for students and their internships. Graduations are too late now.

No break that aligns even partially with local school vacations.

Same objections regarding spring sports scheduling. Also, no option to tweak a break for Easter/Passover.

Helpful to have two breaks

Classes start too early in January.

Needs a second break

Too early of a start date and I believe students and faculty need two breaks (Spring is always a harder semester than Fall)

having a break in Feb is important. 7 weeks of class in a row will be too difficult. no breathing room.

This looks like a lot of days in class without break. It looks like how we used to do it before we worried about too much stress on students. I think having a two day break someplace in the Spring semester along with the week Spring break is important.

I find winter breaks to be very valuable for research.

Kills winter session

Cuts into January break, which (as noted before) is very useful for special courses and international experiences.

I don't support drastically shortening the winter break what about a variant of this proposal shifted down a week? that would not shorten the break but would allow us to end earlier

both breaks are valuable in semester. Winter (January) break is too short. semester ends too soon.

Need a long winter break for research.

See comments under S3

Again, I value January as my own time, I like having one little extra break, I enjoy teaching when the weather is good. I also don't really care about commencement, to be honest

truncating intersession limits research travel

Not enough time to catch up on research between semesters. More potential for weather interfering with seminar visitors.

The long break in January is necessary for those of us who need to travel abroad for research.

Starts too early and truncates winter break when some of us do research or lead programs off campus. Spring break is too early and could be impacted by bad weather. Is Cornell prepared to feed and house students should winter storms close roads and airports? Or would Cornell start classes late if students couldn't return to campus due to weather delays?

no overlap of breaks with Ithaca School District

Starts too early, need a Feb break

Students probably need a break in the early part of the semester. I prefer S3 to this one

There is no choice for "ABSOLUTELY NOT." I feel strongly that January Break must remain so students can have an opportunity for international experiences or other activities. When I was in college my January experiences were life-changing, and now that I am leading these, I can see the same thing in many of my students. We need to keep this time open!!!

Too short winter break and the February break is needed.

Would be concerned that the long time until spring break would be hard on students.

Again this cuts into the winter break which is essential for faculty to work on grant proposals and course preparation and for students to travel (especially internationally) to be with their families over Christmas.

Winter break too short. Strange CDS.

I am STRONGLY opposed to any proposal that cuts into the long Jan break --- VERY valuable research/writing time, particularly for junior faculty on the tenure clock

Same reason as the previous one.

Faculty and students need winter break for outside projects, internships, etc. I would be super unhappy if this break is shortened.

Same as before

Strongly disagree with shortening the January break period. Interferes with winter session classes and winter vacation time options.

"short" break is missing

February break is nice.

Not much better than S3. Several weeks of winter break are needed for both the students and the faculty to catch up with other work/relax. The combination of F1/S3 or S4 cuts deep in the winter break and will cause lots of unneeded stress for all, I feel.

Long winter break is convenient for grant writing

same reason as given for S3

I prefer this over S3. Removing February break may be an option, but moving the start of the semester this aggressively to an earlier date shortens the winter break too much. Again, I am also a bit worried about the students

never to get enjoy Ithaca in the spring.

Winter break should not be so short. Commencement should remain on Memorial Day. There should be two breaks during the semester.

The start of the semester is still too early. I have values having most of January for our grad students to do research.

I see no advantages to this scenario. It causes us to lose valuable time in January for research and writing, and the one break that remains does not line up with the K-12 school breaks.

Kills winter break

Good to get rid of Feb. break, but starts way, way too early. No real time get do things over winter break.

This framework is not quite as awful as the one modeled in S3, but I will nonetheless reiterate my commentary on that framework, because I think the effects that this scenario would unleash are similar: "I cannot emphasize strongly enough what an unmitigated disaster the reduction of the break between fall and spring semesters would be. Faculty members DEPEND on that time for research and writing, presentations at prominent conferences, proposal writing for distinguished grants and fellowships, spring syllabus refinement, and a host of related activities that enable us to achieve the excellence that Cornell expects--demands--of us. To hobble our ability to succeed by taking away the precious resource of winter time would be cruel and perverse."

Getting rid of winter break is a good idea. And this change may benefit some students who participate in summer internships. However, it intrudes on a number of major academic conferences in early/mid January that would impact professional responsibilities of faculty.

I agree that two spring breaks are totally unnecessary and very disruptive to the flow of teaching. However, this is also an abysmal idea. The January break is an essential period for intersession short courses, particularly those that require foreign travel, as in our college and department. This extended period is also a vital period for research activities and particularly for faculty to prepare federal research grant applications without dividing their time on teaching. In addition, it might even be unsafe, requiring travel to Ithaca during periods of bad weather, and will require more heating of dorms and other student areas, making achieving carbon neutrality that much more difficult.

January break is useful for preparing spring courses and research. It modulates the year in a healthy way. I see little advantage to being done earlier in May, especially since many of our peers are still in session.

Feb break matches Ithaca school break

Like S3, this option leaves too little time for people to regroup and prepare between the fall and spring semesters.

absolutely unacceptable from a faculty perspective - early January is critical federal grant writing time. the February break is needed for everyone to catch up - of all the suggestions this is the absolutely worst DO NOT IMPLEMENT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!!!

Two full months with no break?

Students use winter break for internships and enrichment courses

I think the February break is necessary.

The winter break is too short. Faculty need the winter break for prepare for the spring semester and to do research.

Without a long weekend, students are going to have a difficult time getting from January to March.

Free days in January are more valuable than free days in May, when you have the whole summer before you. Important to have two breaks in the semester. The worst of the four options, in my view.

no break in Feb is not good, I see little advantage to ending earlier in May there is still plenty of time for summer internships with the present spring calendar

I like the February break and the long study break.

Bringing start date earlier and getting rid of feb break means there's a lot more Ithaca winter for the students to live through

This setting creates similar problems to those in S3 - cutting time of possible research in the winter. It would be real loss.