

ACADEMIC SENATE

Resolution 16/17-004

Procedure:

1. A motion should be typed or hand-printed.
2. A motion should first be offered to the Executive Board for review and advice on editing and parliamentary implication.
3. If changes are necessary, the motion should be recopied on another form. Amendments may be indicated in the margin or on the reverse of this form.

Proposal on Creation of a Fall-Semester Break

WHEREAS, USC currently has 71 instructional days in the academic fall semester,

WHEREAS, during the period from Labor Day to Thanksgiving Break, USC students have 56 consecutive instructional days,

WHEREAS, this long period of consecutive instructional days is a relative outlier amongst Top 25 United States universities.

WHEREAS, the USC academic spring semester includes breaks that provide for significantly less consecutive instructional days than the fall semester.

WHEREAS, the current instructional environment at USC places significant educational and emotional demands on students throughout the academic year, both during fall and spring semesters.

WHEREAS, the implementation of a Fall Break allows an opportunity for students to rest, refocus on studies, and participate in alternative mental-health programming, such as Mindful USC and residential-education programs,

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate recognizes that any reduction in instructional days could create an imbalance between the fall and spring semesters that would need to be addressed, and asks that the Academic Senate be consulted in any consideration of a solution,

Therefore, Be it RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate supports the creation of a two-day Fall Break during the 8th week of classes in the fall semester. The Senate recognizes the importance of allowing students a mid-semester break during the fall semester to both better resemble the spring-semester break structure and to optimize the mental health of students during the fall semester.

Resolution Number: **16/17-04**

Date: March 29, 2017

Motion by: Executive Board

(No second required when moved by committee)

To be presented at the Senate meeting on April 19, 2017

Action taken: passed unanimously