



# USG Undergraduate Student Government

**Resolution:** 03072017

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**Sponsoring Senator(s):** Tiffany Lian

**Date:** March 21, 2017

**RE:** The Creation of a Fall Break

## **Resolution**

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

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

WHEREAS, in comparison with the \*Top 25 universities in the United States, USC ranks highest with both the total number of instructional days and the number of consecutive instructional days without a break,

WHEREAS, the Counseling Center reports that the weeks with the most student crisis fall between weeks 8 and 12, as evidenced by Behavioral Health Measurement (BHM) reaching the lowest of the semester where student scores range from 2.58 to 2.62 between 2013 and 2016, which is on the cusp between mild and moderate distress, and approaching the pathological categorization,

WHEREAS, appointments at the health center reach a semester-high between weeks 10 and 12, which does not align with the Center for Disease Control's reported flu season,

WHEREAS, the implementation of a Fall Break will allow students to rest, refocus on studies, and participate in alternative mental health programming such as Mindful USC, Residential Education programs, freshman seminars, and career recruiting,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that USC create a two-day (Monday, Tuesday) Fall Break during the 8th week of classes in the fall semester,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USC implement this break in response to the mental health crisis that surges during the middle of the semester, to better resemble the spring semester structure that involves more breaks and shows peak crisis at the end of the semester with less severe BHM scores,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to President C.L. Max Nikias, Provost Michael Quick, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Ainsley Carry, President of Academic Senate Paula Cannon, Director of Campus Activities Gabe Valenzuela,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Division of Student Affairs respond to the authors of the resolution upon delivery within two weeks of being passed by the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.

\*The Top 25 national universities in the United States with semester systems, as ranked annually by the U.S. News & World Report.