Start of Fall Term Proposal

Summary:

When reviewing the possibilities for long-range changes to the academic calendar as a result of the veteran’s holiday becoming a university closure, the following ideas came up. There are five possible options for start of term and each one is listed below with an explanation. NOTE: this proposal is for 2016 and beyond. The decision about how to handle the details of the 2015 start date (9/24/15) will be decided based upon the long-term calendar decision.

The following topics will need to be addressed after a decision is made for the fall term start dates (into the future):

**Registration**- Non-degree seeking students are not scheduled to register for fall term until the final START session is completed and that leaves them 5 days under the current structure. Commencing immediately after the final START session would impact their ability to get classes prior to the start of the term. This can be adjusted but may impact students at the final START session.

**External Impact**- Currently Linn Benton Community College has stated that they follow the OSU calendar. While we have no reason to think this may change, we will want to give them as much time as possible. Additionally, the start of term will impact COCC students who attend OSU Cascades.

**Non-Academic Impact**- Some of the non-academic but critical factors that will need adjusting (no matter what decision is made) are related to CONNECT week, UHDS move-in, INTO recruitment and arrival coordination as well as Greek recruitment; in particular, sororities. CONNECT and UHDS do see a benefit from beginning the term on a non-Monday as a way to have CONNECT week during the first part of the week and classes at the end of the week.

**Refunds**- If the term starts on a non-Monday, the 100% refund period for fall term will not match other terms. This can pose an equity issue for drops vs withdrawals and refunds. The bookstore may need to adjust their refunds as a result of this change as it relates to the refund period changing. However, this calendar change may prove to be an appropriate time to adjust the refund period in order to reflect a refund schedule more consistent with our PAC-12 colleagues (who have a shorter refund period).

**Academic Regulation Impact**- If any option other than option 5 is selected, the wording of the academic regulations will need to be modified because the regulations refer to the ‘day’ of the class where a deadline exists. The deadlines will need to follow the ‘week’ and therefore, the language will have to be updated. This could result in a substantive change for fall term as it compares to winter, spring and summer terms as it relates to drop, withdrawal and refunds.

**Miscellaneous**- Classified staff have asked if they will now be required to work on December 24 as that was always the “in lieu of” holiday for Veterans Day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Impact to AR 9 (attendance and how faculty can drop a student)</th>
<th>Impact to AR 11 (adding and dropping classes)</th>
<th>Impact to AR 12 (withdrawing from individual classes)</th>
<th>Financial benefit to student</th>
<th>Financial cost to student</th>
<th>Opportunity for another student to get into the course</th>
<th>Teaching Days</th>
<th>Holidays on the start of term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1</strong> - Start Thursdays with 1½ week refund</td>
<td>Change language to reflect a “week” rather than first 5 days.</td>
<td>Change language to reflect “first two weeks” rather than first 10 days.</td>
<td>Change ‘days’ to ‘weeks’.</td>
<td>No benefit.</td>
<td>Loss of three days of seat time from current refund period.</td>
<td>Some faculty would allow a different student to enter their course after this short period of time if a space opened.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9/22/16- none 9/21/17- Rosh Hashanah/Navaratri 9/20/18- none 9/19/19- none 9/17/20- none 9/16/21- none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2</strong> - Start Thursdays with 2½ week refund</td>
<td>Change language to reflect a “week” rather than first 5 days.</td>
<td>Change language to reflect “first two weeks” rather than first 10 days.</td>
<td>Change ‘days’ to ‘weeks’.</td>
<td>Student gains two additional days to obtain refund from course.</td>
<td>No cost.</td>
<td>Highly unlikely for faculty member to allow a different student to enter their course after this period of time.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 3</strong> - Start Wednesdays with 1½ week refund</td>
<td>Change language to reflect a “week” rather than first 5 days.</td>
<td>Change language to reflect “first two weeks” rather than first 10 days.</td>
<td>Change ‘days’ to ‘weeks’.</td>
<td>No benefit.</td>
<td>Loss of two days of seat time from current refund period.</td>
<td>Some faculty would allow a different student to enter their course after this short period of time if a space opened.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9/21/16- none 9/20/17- none 9/19/18- Yom Kippur 9/18/19- none 9/16/20- none 9/15/21- none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 4</strong> - Start Wednesdays with 2½ week refund</td>
<td>Change language to reflect a “week” rather than first 5 days.</td>
<td>Change language to reflect “first two weeks” rather than first 10 days.</td>
<td>Change ‘days’ to ‘weeks’.</td>
<td>Student gains three additional days to obtain refund from course.</td>
<td>No cost.</td>
<td>Highly unlikely for faculty member to allow a different student to enter their course after this period of time.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 5</strong> - Create a 12 week term and take Thanksgiving week off which could result in reduced absences as a result of eased travel. See below.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No change needed.</td>
<td>None if refund periods do not change.</td>
<td>No change from current scenario.</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9/26/16- none 9/25/17- 4th day of Navaratri 9/24/18- none 9/23/19- none 9/21/20- Paryushana Parva 9/20/21- none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12 week term schedule - PROPOSED- These proposed dates do NOT change the start of term from other OUS schools (through 2018) but puts the end of term one week later. It still allows for three weeks off at the end of the term. The term will last 12 weeks including Thanksgiving week off. We believe the calendars for 2019-beyond are also in alignment with what OUS 'would' have done but we cannot be certain.

- Fall 2017- Start 9.25 and end on Dec 15. Winter term starts on Jan 8. Three weeks between terms.
- Fall 2020- Start 9.21 and end on Dec 12. Winter term starts on Jan 4. Three weeks between terms.
- Fall 2021- Start 9.20 and end on Dec 11. Winter term starts on Jan 3. Three weeks between terms.

Details about Wednesday and Thursday options with a 1.5/2.5 week refund period (2016-beyond)

Information:

1. Teaching Days: 49 for Thursday start and 50 for Wednesday start.
2. Avoid the start of term directly falling on two religious holidays in 2016 and one in 2018
3. Opportunity to revise some outdated deadlines that are inconsistent with other university standards.
4. AR 9, 11 and 12 would have to be changed to reflect the deadlines in terms of "weeks" instead of "days".
5. UHDS can easily use the weekend for move-in and CONNECT in the following week prior to classes starting.
6. There is an equity issue with the refund period being different between fall term and the other three terms.

Details about creating a 12 week term and taking Thanksgiving week off (2016- beyond)

Information:

1. Teaching days: 49
2. Eases travel time for all students, faculty and staff for Thanksgiving holiday
3. Refund period could remain the same.
4. AR 9: No show drop date could remain the same.
5. AR 11: Add/drop deadlines could remain the same.
6. AR 12: The withdraw deadline could remain the same.
7. Greek recruitment would have an easier adjustment to a full-week schedule change.
8. UHDS would like to pursue a weekend schedule for move-in and CONNECT if we pursue this option.