



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Fall 2023 Academic Calendar Reform & BFA Summary of Poll Data

Summary

The BFA conducted a poll¹ at the end of November for representatives to weigh in on proposed changes to the academic calendar to begin in 2025. Representatives, along with several BFA committees, had discussed two calendar options beginning in October that addressed issues in the current calendar that impacted faculty, students, and staff. The “[2023 Academic Calendar Reform](#)” page on the BFA website detailed the options and process. The BFA Executive Committee approved a poll for representatives to gauge the impact across campus colleges, divisions, and schools². The following summarizes the results of that poll.*

Overall, the proposed changes show general support³, however the BFA does recommend that Academic Affairs work closely with some units to ensure those areas receive the support and time needed to implement modifications.

Poll Question Results

The BFA poll included four questions. Representatives were given access to the poll for ten days and asked to query their constituents specifically in their department or unit prior to responding to the poll. Sixty of the listed BFA representatives responded. All colleges and schools were represented in those responses.

The first item asked representatives to mark the answers that best described the sentiment of their colleagues overall related to specific and overall concerns. They were allowed to choose multiple options as fit the responses from their colleagues. Highlights from this question are as follows:

Concern about time/work required to review courses and make changes?

- No = 80%
- Yes = 20%

Concern about overall curriculum impact in their unit?

- No = 80%
- Yes = 20%

¹ The BFA acknowledges that this was an informal poll not conducted with a validated survey, that the sample size is small (n=60), and that the representatives do not statistically represent the faculty senate due to how our representation is organized.

² https://www.colorado.edu/bfa/sites/default/files/attached-files/fall_23_-_academic_calendar_revision_-_bfa_poll_final_110923.pdf

³ Note that two changes showed more mixed and negative responses with most concern coming from A&S Natural Sciences and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. These are midsemester reading days, and a concern about the reduction in instructional days from 73 to 70.



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Concern for a particular track or student group (graduate students, major, etc.)?

- No = 88%
- Yes = 12%

Are there major concerns in my unit?

- No = 70%
- Yes = 30%

Are there moderate concerns in my unit?

- No = 63%
- Yes = 37%

Overall the faculty in my unit are not in favor of any changes

- Disagree = 66%
- Agree = 34%

The second item asked representatives to select the “bucket” that the majority of the faculty in their unit would categorize specific calendar model changes. Two changes: : midsemester wellness day and decreasing instructional days showed more “mixed to negative” responses compared to other changes.

Equalizing instruction hours for both MWF & TR

- Positive = 37%
- Negative = 14%
- Neutral or mixed = 49%

Reducing instructional days from 73 to 70

- Positive = 36%
- Negative = 27%
- Neutral or mixed = 37%

Start finals week on a Monday

- Positive = 45%
- Negative = 8%
- Neutral or mixed = 47%

Increase finals reading days from one to two

- Positive = 49%
- Negative = 12%
- Neutral or mixed = 39%

Addition of a midsemester wellness/reading day for students on Thursday

- Positive = 20%
- Negative = 42%
- Neutral or mixed = 38%

Alignment of spring break with local school districts

- Positive = 63%
- Negative = 1%
- Neutral or mixed = 36%

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The third item asked representatives to mark the level of concern that most closely aligned with the feedback and comments their department/unit members expressed with regards to the workload and time needed to adjust courses to meet the reduction in instruction time. The majority of faculty felt that there was moderate to low levels of concern in this area:

- High levels of concern = 17%
- Mixed – mostly high = 13%
- Mixed – mostly moderate = 39%
- Little to no concern = 31%

The final question asked representatives to mark the level of support their colleagues felt would be needed from Academic Affairs, the Registrar's office, as well in consultation with their colleagues at other institutions. The majority of faculty felt that very little to moderate assistance would be needed.

- Extensive = 25%
- Moderate = 24%
- Very little = 51%

**Please note that Qualtrics poll summary tables are available upon request*

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