

**Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate
October 13, 2020**

1. Spring 2021 Calendar: As noted last month, we may want to consider cancelling or modifying Spring Break to reduce the likelihood of students leaving Salisbury and visiting areas where the risk of contracting COVID-19 (and potentially bringing it back to campus) is higher. Downsides to cancelling spring break are the lack a break for students and faculty alike and any impacts this has on their well-being. After much discussion with several different groups, I recommend a mini-break of two days in mid-March which would provide few days of downtime. **Action requested of the FS: Seeking input on two-day break.**

Options	Classes Start/End	Spring Break	Post-Break Testing	Reading Day	Finals Start/End	Commencement
No Change	Regular 1/25-5/7 7W1 1/25-3/12 7W2 3/22-5/7	3/15-3/19	Week of 3/22	5/8 (Saturday) N/A N/A	5/10-5/14 3/12 5/7	5/14-5/15
No Spring Break	Reg. 1/25-4/30 7W1 1/25-3/12 7W2 3/22-5/7	None	No change in schedule	5/1 (Saturday) N/A N/A	5/3-5/7 3/12 5/7	5/14-5/15
Mini-Break (2 days)	Reg. 1/25-5/4 7W1 1/25-3/12 7W2 3/22-5/7	3/15-3/16	Starts on 3/17	5/5 N/A N/A	5/6 to 5/12 3/12 5/7	5/14-5/15

Considerations/Caveats for Spring Break (SB):

- Any plan subject to change due to COVID-19.
- Two-day (vs. three-day) break may reduce the likelihood of student absence the entire week.
- Two-day break would allow for extra time at the end of the semester for make-up work and grading.
- Clinicals and internships may need to meet over any break and for a certain number of hours.
- Need to consider testing, isolation and quarantine needs after any break (less break is better from a COVID-19 standpoint).
- Changes to calendar impact Financial Aid, Bursar, Drop-Add, etc. Helpful to not alter the early part of the calendar.
- WCPS school break is 4/2-4/5, so not something we can coordinate with this semester.
- No extra days in spring schedule, so can't just cut days.
- Around the USM, as reported by campus leaders earlier this month: BSU (no return to campus after SB); UMBC (holding SB); UMCP (no SB); UMES (3-day SB); TU (leaning toward SB, most students remote)

2. 2020 Commencement Exercises: Announcement regarding 2020 Commencement Exercises forthcoming on 10/12. Provost will report on this at the FS meeting. **Action requested of the FS: None, informational.**

3. Executive Order 13950 on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping: The USM and University are closely monitoring Executive Order 13950 which prohibits the use of 'divisive' terms in training activities and any impact it might have on our ability to conduct training. **Action requested of the FS: Remain informed on this important challenge. See [this article](#) in the Chronicle of Higher Education.**

4. VPAF Candidates on campus 10/12-10/19: Open sessions for each of four finalists for the position of VP for Administration and Finance will be held 10/12-10/19 as will meetings of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the search committee. See email from Barbara Johnson sent on 10/8. **Action requested of the FS: If your schedule allows, attend open sessions and give your feedback.**