

R W2018.02

**A Resolution in Support of the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar Proposed by the Office of the Registrar With Classes Starting Before Labor Day**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

10 January 2018

Sponsors: Nicholas Fadanelli, Wyatt Puscas, Mary McKillop, Hanna Simmons

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the University of Michigan’s academic calendar traditionally has the fall semester starting after Labor Day<sup>2</sup>, leading to a fall term which has ended as late as December 23rd in the recent past; and,

**Whereas**, the fact that the fall academic term ends this late causes many students and faculty members a great deal of difficulty, as out of state students must book flights during one of the most expensive and busy times of the year, and faculty are rushed to submit grades before the semester ends; and,

**Whereas**, only five of the fourteen Big Ten Universities, including the University of Michigan, begin their Fall academic terms after Labor Day<sup>3</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, due to Labor Day in 2020 falling on September 7, and the University being unable to cut any days of classes due to the decennial accreditation review<sup>4</sup>, if the Fall 2020 term academic calendar is constructed as usual then the final examination period will go through December 24; and,

**Whereas**, individuals working as departmental staff or in the Office of the Registrar will be forced to work up to three days past the exam period, or through December 27; and,

**Whereas**, the Office of the Registrar sent out a proposed academic calendar for the 2020-2021 academic year for approval from the University of Michigan Board of Regents which has the University’s fall academic term shift to begin before Labor Day; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> University of Michigan - Ann Arbor Academic Calendars  
<http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/>

<sup>3</sup> R W2018.02 Appendix A - Big Ten University Fall Term Start Dates

<sup>4</sup> University of Michigan Accreditation 2010 Report  
<http://www.accreditation.umich.edu/index4.php>

**Whereas**, in the proposed Fall 2020 academic calendar, the United States Federal Election Day, and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break become academic holidays, while Fall Break and the Wednesday Study Day before final exams will continue, with the term ending on December 20; and,

**Whereas**, in the Fall 2017 LSA SG elections, LSA SG put forward a ballot question asking, “Due to concerns regarding the short length of winter break, the Registrar’s Office is considering changes to the academic calendar. Would you be in favor of starting the fall academic term one week before Labor Day with the purpose of extending winter break?”; and,

**Whereas**, of the 842 LSA students who voted on the question, 584 (69%) voted in favor of amending the academic calendar to start before Labor Day, 161 (19%) voted against starting before Labor Day, and 97 (12%) voted that they were indifferent to starting before or after Labor Day<sup>5</sup>.

**Be it therefore resolved**, LSA SG formally supports the Office of the Registrar’s Proposed 2020-2021 Academic Calendar which has the Fall 2020 academic term start before Labor Day; and,

**Be it further resolved**, LSA SG formally supports having the University of Michigan Academic Calendar start the week before Labor Day for every academic year following 2020-2021; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, LSA SG shall send a letter of support, alongside a copy of this resolution, to President Mark Schlissel, Provost Martin Philbert, Associate Vice Provost and Registrar Paul Robinson, Associate Registrar Lisa Emery, Chair of the Board of Regents Mark Bernstein, and LSA Dean Andrew Martin.

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<sup>5</sup> R W2018.02 Appendix B - LSA SG Fall 2017 Election Results - Academic Calendar Ballot Question

**R W2018.02 Appendix A - Big Ten University Fall Term Start Dates**

<b>University</b>	<b>Start Before or After Labor Day</b>	<b>Start Date (Fall 2017)</b>	<b>Link to Academic Calendar</b>
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	After	September 5	<a href="http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/fa17.php">http://ro.umich.edu/calendar/fa17.php</a>
Northwestern University	After	September 19	<a href="http://www.registrar.northwestern.edu/calendars/2017_18_acad_calendar.html">http://www.registrar.northwestern.edu/calendars/2017_18_acad_calendar.html</a>
University of Wisconsin - Madison	After	September 6	<a href="https://secfac.wisc.edu/academic-calendar/">https://secfac.wisc.edu/academic-calendar/</a>
Rutgers University	After	September 5	<a href="https://registrar.camden.rutgers.edu/academic-calendar-2017-2018">https://registrar.camden.rutgers.edu/academic-calendar-2017-2018</a>
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities	After	September 5	<a href="https://onestop.umn.edu/dates-and-deadlines">https://onestop.umn.edu/dates-and-deadlines</a>
Michigan State University	Before	August 30	<a href="https://reg.msu.edu/roinfo/calendar/academic.aspx">https://reg.msu.edu/roinfo/calendar/academic.aspx</a>
The Ohio State University	Before	August 22	<a href="http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp">http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp</a>
University of Maryland	Before	August 28	<a href="https://www.provost.umd.edu/calendar/17.html">https://www.provost.umd.edu/calendar/17.html</a>
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign	Before	August 28	<a href="https://www.provost.umd.edu/calendar/17.html">https://www.provost.umd.edu/calendar/17.html</a>
University of Indiana	Before	August 21	<a href="http://registrar.indiana.edu/official-calendar/official-calendar-fall.shtml">http://registrar.indiana.edu/official-calendar/official-calendar-fall.shtml</a>
Penn State University	Before	August 21	<a href="http://registrar.psu.edu/academic_calendar/fall17.cfm">http://registrar.psu.edu/academic_calendar/fall17.cfm</a>
University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Before	August 21	<a href="https://registrar.unl.edu/2017-2018#tab1">https://registrar.unl.edu/2017-2018#tab1</a>
University of Iowa	Before	August 21	<a href="http://catalog.registrar.uiowa.edu/calendar/">http://catalog.registrar.uiowa.edu/calendar/</a>
Purdue University	Before	August 21	<a href="https://www.purdue.edu/registrar/calendars/2017-18-Academic-Calendar.html">https://www.purdue.edu/registrar/calendars/2017-18-Academic-Calendar.html</a>

## R W2018.02 Appendix B - LSA SG Fall 2017 Election Results - Academic Calendar Ballot Question

Due to concerns regarding the short length of winter break, the Registrar's Office is considering changes to the academic calendar. Would you be in favor of starting the fall academic term one week before Labor Day with the purpose of extending winter break?

Answer	Votes	Exceptions	Total including Exceptions
Yes, I support this proposal	584	26	610
No, I do not support this proposal	161	14	175
I am indifferent to this proposal	97	5	102

