

## **Petition for University Council to vote on adjusting the 2017-2018 UGA Academic Calendar**

We, the undersigned UGA faculty members, ask the University Council Executive Committee to place the following item on the September 2016 University Council agenda.

### **Proposal:**

We request that the 2017-2018 academic calendar be adjusted by moving the start dates of Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 classes forward in time by one week. Thus, Fall 2017 classes would begin on Thursday, August 17, 2017 (rather than the currently scheduled August 10), and Spring 2018 classes would begin on Thursday January 11, 2018 (rather than the currently scheduled January 4). No other changes would be made to either academic calendar (although the dates for registration, advisement, and drop-add would be appropriately adjusted).

### **Rationale:**

It has come to our attention that the UGA academic calendar is longer than the academic calendars of other schools in the University System of Georgia (as well as those of our fellow SEC schools and our designated peer and aspirational institutions). The unusually early start dates for our academic calendar create problems which severely impact learning opportunities for many students, as internships, jobs, and study abroad programs continue past the date that UGA students are expected back on campus. This puts our students either at a competitive disadvantage or in the position of missing the first few class meetings of a semester. Moving the start to one week later will still leave us in compliance on our required number of instructional hours as dictated by the Board of Regents (and in line with the academic calendars of Georgia State and Georgia Tech), but will leave more time for students to engage in the types of experiential learning opportunities essential to their education. The later start times will also benefit housing, financial aid, advising, instructors, and other members of the UGA community, as there will be more time to transition from one academic semester (including summer) to the next.

\*Please attach additional pages as necessary. Please return original signed petitions (make copies for your records) to Dr. Patricia Richards, Department of Sociology, Baldwin Hall (plr333@uga.edu) or Dr. Rachel Gabara, Department of Romance Languages, Gilbert Hall (rgabara@uga.edu) as soon as possible, and no later than Wednesday, August 24, 2016. Faculty signatures are specified because of University Council bylaws. All employees with faculty status are welcome to sign.

Printed Name

Signature

Department

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Printed Name

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Department

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