

REPORT TO SENATE – IMPLEMENTATION OF A FALL STUDY BREAK

November 2015

Background:

Today, 17 of the 20 Ontario Universities have adopted a Fall Study Break. Not only is this a trend happening within Ontario but also across the country. These breaks range anywhere from 1 day in length to a full week, at various times during the Fall Term. Of the 17 Ontario Universities with a Fall Study Break, 11 have implemented full week breaks (8 combined with Thanksgiving; and 3 an alternate week in October); 2 have implemented 1 day breaks; and 5 have implemented 2 day breaks.

Through a Referendum held by the Lakehead University Student Union, students have expressed that they see value in a Fall Study Break. 84.1% of student voters voted in favour of a Fall Study Break. Lakehead is now 1 of 3 Ontario Universities that have yet to implement a break.

Internally, faculty, student support staff, advisors and counsellors have also expressed an interest in a break. Academic Units were asked to provide feedback in response to the feasibility of a Fall Study Break within their academic unit. The Lakehead Student Union was also consulted for their feedback.

The concept of a Fall Study Break has now been explored for the past year by an Ad-Hoc Working Group of the Senate Academic Committee. In October, the Senate Academic Committee approved the recommendations and is now bringing forward to the following recommendations to Senate.

Recommendation:

Senate Academic Committee is recommending the following:

- **Implementation of a 4-day Fall Study Break immediately following Thanksgiving Monday.**
- **Adopt the proposed timing of the Fall Study Break for a 2-Year period on a pilot basis starting with the 2016-17 academic year until the 2017-18 academic year**
- **Approve the revised 2016/17 Academic Schedule of Dates (see Appendix A) [Note: 2016/17 Schedule of Dates previously approved by Senate]**
- **Approve the 2017/18 Academic Schedule of Dates (see Appendix B)**

Implications for the Academic Schedule of Dates:

Implementation of a Fall Study Break as recommended will mean the following changes to the Academic Schedule of Dates for the Fall Term:

- Change of the start date of classes from the Monday after Labour Day to the Tuesday following Labour Day
- Slight adjustments made to the last date of classes and the exam period

Implementation:

Senate Academic appreciates that not all academic units may be able to implement a Fall Study Break, nor start on the Tuesday following Labour Day due to intricacies of their programs and requirements (i.e. placements, practicums etc). In those cases, academic units may need to alter their dates to best suit the programming for their respective programs.

APPENDIX A:**Proposed 2016/2017 Academic Schedule of Dates**

	Fall Term 2016	Winter Term 2017 (Previously Approved by Senate)
Classes Start	Tuesday September 6, 2016	Monday January 9, 2017
Classes End	Monday December 5, 2016	Friday April 7, 2017
Final Date to Register (Add)	Monday September 19, 2016	Friday January 20, 2017
Study Break	Tuesday October 11 – Friday October 14, 2016	Tuesday February 21 – Friday February 24, 2017
Final Date to Withdrawal (Drop)	Fall Classes: Friday November 4, 2016 Full Year Classes: Friday February 3, 2016	Winter Classes: Friday March 10, 2017
Exams	Thursday December 8 – Sunday December 18, 2016 (11 days)	Monday April 10-13; 15; 18-23, 2017 (11 days)
Exam Contingency Date	Monday December 19, 2016	Monday April 24, 2017
Final Marks Due	Friday December 23, 2016	Wednesday April 27, 2017
Convocation		Thunder Bay: Friday June 2 & Saturday June 3, 2017 Orillia: Saturday June 10, 2017

APPENDIX B:**Proposed 2017/2018 Academic Schedule of Dates**

	Fall Term 2017	Winter Term 2018
Classes Start	Tuesday September 5, 2017	Monday January 8, 2018
Classes End	Monday December 4, 2017	Friday April 6, 2018 (with April 9 & 10 as make up days for Easter)
Final Date to Register (Add)	Monday September 18, 2017	Friday January 19, 2018
Study Break	Tuesday October 10 – Friday October 13, 2017	Tuesday February 20 – Friday February 23, 2018
Final Date to Withdrawal (Drop)	Fall Classes: Friday November 3, 2017 Full Year Classes: Friday February 2, 2018	Winter Classes: Friday March 9, 2018
Exams	Wednesday December 7 – 17, 2017 (11 days)	Friday April 13 – 24, 2018 (with 1 Sunday exam April 22) (11 days)
Exam Contingency Date	Monday December 18, 2017	First Sunday after the missed exam: Sunday April 15 and Wednesday April 25
Final Marks Due	Friday December 22, 2017	Tuesday May 2, 2018
Convocation		Thunder Bay: Friday June 1 & Saturday June 2, 2018 Orillia: Saturday June 8, 2018