University Faculty Council, 2022-23

Alternative Semesters

Background: During Spring Semester, 2021-22, the University Faculty Council (UFC) formed the Ad hoc Committee on Alternative Semesters and charged the committee with researching the viability of restructuring the academic calendar to allow for the addition of an alternative semester. The [original charge](https://ufc.umw.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/3211/files/2023/03/UFC-Motion-Ad-Hoc-Committee-Alternative-terms-with-2.2.22-changes.docx) is linked here.

On March 22, 2023, the UFC considered the [Committee’s report](https://ufc.umw.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/3211/files/2023/03/Ad-Hoc-Final-Report-1.pdf) and initial recommendation. UFC representatives shared input from various constituencies with Committee Chair, Michael Benson, who responded to questions and concerns and explained the committee’s reasoning and various constraints. The UFC will continue this discussion at its April 12th meeting and will determine next steps for the recommendations.

The following UFC motion is offered in the interest of allowing the full faculty final say on whether to recommend implementing these changes.

**UFC Motion on Alternative Semesters**

UMW faculty shall:

1. consider the recommendations of the Committee on Alternative Semesters, as explained in the Committee’s Report.
2. vote on adoption of a J-term as recommended by the Committee and as represented below.

Both the discussion and in-person vote shall take place at the last business meeting of the full faculty (April 19th).

**UMW Faculty Motion on Alternative Semesters**

The faculty recommends that the UMW Administration adopt the primary [recommendations of the Committee](https://ufc.umw.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/3211/files/2023/03/Ad-Hoc-Final-Report-1.pdf) on Alternative Semesters, including establishing a January term, with the following stipulations:

i. Participation is unequivocally optional for both students and faculty.

ii. Apart from Study Abroad, certain field experience opportunities, and internships, the modality of a January Term is on-line; the University should reexamine the potential to offer in-person instruction once quantifiable and experiential data trends have been established.

iii. The unbroken Winter Break for staff is not reduced or changed in any way and the staff is not required to work over Winter Break to support or prepare for the January Term.

Passage of this Motion by the University faculty comes with the understanding that–although the Committee recommended a general framework for changes to the academic calendar necessitated by implementation of a three-week January term–the Administration will need to work out details and will need to involve more institutional stakeholders in their final decision and implementation plan.