



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT --
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

November 6, 2009

CHANCELLOR GEORGE BLUMENTHAL

Dear George:

I am writing in response to the issues raised by the October 19, 2009, resolution adopted by the UCSC Division of the Academic Senate to designate some instructional days in the current UC Santa Cruz calendar as days when classes would not occur. General Counsel has addressed the legal issues related to this proposal, including the question of where authority lies to change the calendar. I am writing to suggest a process for addressing the policy issues raised by the resolution.

Issues regarding UC's academic calendar have been raised recently in a number of areas such as (1) residence hall move-in days on religious holidays, (2) the overall length of the instructional calendar, (3) furloughs, (4) calendar alignment to further cross-campus instruction, and (5) the need for reading/review period prior to final exams.

I expect one or more of these issues to be addressed by the Academic Planning Council and the UC Commission on the Future. However, both the action on your campus and action on other campuses have illustrated that the current UC policy on instructional days¹ lacks clarity because the term "instructional day" is not defined. I will be asking the Chair of the Academic Council to ask the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) to examine the issue of the definition of "instructional day" at their next meeting.

I would welcome recommendations from your campus on developing such a definition for future calendars. In addition, I am willing to consider short-term revisions to the definition of instructional days for an existing calendar that has already been approved by the Provost if it can be shown that this would enhance UC's instructional mission. In considering whether or not to approve such a request, I would expect to see a sound pedagogical basis for the requested change, a reasonable timetable for implementation, and evidence that it has been reviewed and supported by the appropriate campus Academic Senate committees and the Chancellor.

¹ <http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/da/da0556guide.pdf>

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Please let me know if you have questions or if you need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lawrence H. Pitts
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic Affairs

cc: President Yudof
General Counsel Robinson
Academic Council Chair Powell
Vice Provost Greenstein