

August 13, 2009

CP/EVC David Kliger
Chancellor's Office

RE: Senate Executive Committee recommendation for implementation of six furlough days during instruction

Dear Dave:

In its meeting of July 29, Academic Council unanimously supported the concept of furloughs affecting instructional days. Council followed the principle that furloughs should reflect the duties of the faculty, which are divided among teaching, research and service. Specifically, Council recommended that Vice President Pitts establish a systemwide standard of six instructional-day furloughs during the academic year (letter attached). Council further recommended that campuses have the flexibility to assign up to ten instructional days as faculty furlough. To follow up on SEC's letter of July 17, 2009, which identified ten potential instructional days, we write now to recommend a set of six days that could best be implemented at UCSC to achieve the Council's requested base, should VP Pitts approve the request.

Fall quarter:

November 23, 24, 25

Winter quarter:

February 12

Spring quarter:

April 29, 30

These dates hold to the principles stated in our July letter of spreading faculty furlough days roughly evenly between quarters and across MWF and TTH classes.

We anticipate that VP Pitts will act on Council's recommendation soon and urge you to have our campus plan for implementing faculty furlough days well under way should he approve. We understand from our colleagues at other UC campuses that such planning is occurring now within their administrations. We look forward to working with you in the very near future to identify and resolve the implications of such faculty furlough days.

Sincerely,



Quentin Williams, Chair
Senate Executive Committee

ENCLOSURE

Cc: Chancellor Blumenthal
Interim VC Delaney
AVC Peterson



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*Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
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University of California
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August 5, 2009

**LAWRENCE PITTS
INTERIM PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Re: Implementation of Furlough Days on Instructional Days

Dear Larry:

At the July 29, 2009 meeting of the Academic Council, members discussed the issue of the implementation of furlough days pursuant to the recently approved Regents' Item [J1](#). Council weighed the benefits and limitations of using and not using instructional days as furlough days, as well as the appropriate level of campus flexibility in making these decisions. While Council members acknowledge that students are already being negatively impacted through increased fees, staff reductions, and loss of services on furlough days, the Academic Council unanimously supported the concept that furloughs should affect instructional days. In particular, Council members noted that faculty members perform the following three activities—teaching, research, and service, and that all three should be affected by the furlough program. It also is important to acknowledge that faculty are evaluated in terms of their performance in their teaching, research, and service; excluding furlough days from any one of these areas may unfairly hurt the faculty in merit and promotion reviews. Finally, the Academic Council felt it was important to send a message that budget cuts do in fact negatively impact the University's instructional mission.

Thus, following a lengthy debate, the Academic Council makes the following request and recommendation: (1) that the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs institute a systemwide standard of six furlough days assigned to days of instruction over the nine month academic calendar; and (2) that he approve campus requests for changes to their academic calendars that place furloughs on specified instructional days for up to ten days pursuant to his authority under [delegation of authority 0556](#) and [SOR 100.4\(h\)](#). In making this recommendation, the Academic Council recognizes the faculty's obligation to provide high quality instruction to students. As a governing body, we strongly recommend that the learning objectives remain relatively constant in the face of these reductions and that faculty be permitted to design alternative curricula to promote this end. The Academic Council also recommends that no faculty member be allowed to take furlough days that affect instructional days beyond the approved campus academic calendar.

Academic Council members also discussed the character, definition, and amount of instructional days, which has traditionally been set at 146 days. The definition and character of instructional days becomes especially important if faculty are allowed to design alternatives to lost instructional days (e.g., reading days, alternative assignments, etc). Towards the goal of clarifying the instructional days' policy, Academic Council also proposes that the Senate, in tandem with the administration, commit to reexamining the definition, character, and number of days of instruction. We believe this may be accomplished through a short-term task force or through the work of the UC Commission on the Future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding Council's requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Croughan".

Mary Croughan
Chair, Academic Council

Copy: Mark G. Yudof, President
John Sandbrook, Interim Chief of Staff
Academic Council
Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director