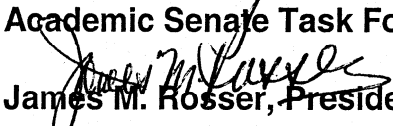




DATE: July 31, 2001

TO: Ann Garry, Chair
Academic Senate Task Force on The Academic Calendar

FROM:  James M. Rosser, President

CC: W. A. Taylor, Vice Presidents

RE: Consideration of Semester Conversion

I am pleased to respond to your request to share with your Task Force the current thinking of the University Administration regarding semester conversion.

The Academic Calendar is important to the academic governance process. For this reason, I am committed to working in partnership with the faculty, through the Academic Senate, to consider whether we shall make this move, and, if so, what the parameters of such a conversion should be, and how the transition process should occur.

As we consider this topic, the Administration is committed to the principles of flexibility, creative planning and mutual trust, especially in our joint dedication to academic integrity and excellence. In particular, I am quite open to a variety of possibilities regarding:

- the structures that emerge regarding the number of courses required for degrees and certificates and for General Education;
- the number of units carried by different courses;
- the number of courses and units taught by faculty during a given term;
- the length of the summer term and provisions for a full semester's work for both faculty and students;
- the schedule(s) under which students may pay their fees;
- and, the length of time we take for the transition.

If, through the Academic Governance process, we decide to make this transition, I am open to providing the resources needed for the faculty and staff to undertake the many tasks necessary to carry it out. I would approach the Chancellor's Office to negotiate the needed support, and also would consider this our highest priority in the use of campus funds. Once we decide upon the appropriate nature of the transition and the effective date for the switch over, I would anticipate discussions with the Chancellor's Office to secure its concurrence with the transition plan and schedule.

I look forward to the faculty's careful consideration of this issue and to receiving the recommendation of the Academic Senate. I, and other University Administrators, are available to your Task Force and to the Senate to participate further in this discussion.

RECEIVED

Jul. 31 2001

ACADEMIC SENATE