

Academic Calendar Alignment Resolution

Whereas, when last surveyed, the majority of students, faculty, and staff at Grossmont College expressed a preference for a 16-week semester, rather than the current calendar;

Whereas, GCCCD seeks to support students who are simultaneously enrolled at our colleges and at colleges that utilize a compressed calendar, including all San Diego area community colleges and San Diego State University. For these students, managing two different academic calendars is burdensome, causing them to juggle multiple class and final exam schedules due to GCCCD's extended calendar;

Whereas, in order to increase student access to our college, GCCCD recognizes that local college or university students are more likely to enroll at GCCCD if our academic calendar aligns with that of their college or university;

Whereas, in our efforts to dismantle all obstacles to student success, GCCCD recognizes that having several extra weeks of college per year creates economic hardships for our students (such as loss of earnings, commuting costs, and childcare costs);

Whereas, we wish to support the majority of our instructors, who are part-time at GCCCD while also teaching at other colleges and universities that utilize a compressed calendar. For these instructors, the longer academic calendar at GCCCD causes a misalignment of their class schedules and breaks;

Whereas, GCCCD instructors can effectively fulfill their contracted hours on a compressed calendar and are not contractually obligated to teach additional weeks per year;

Whereas, all San Diego area community colleges and over fifty California community colleges have successfully transitioned to a compressed calendar and, in doing so, observed improvements in student retention and success rates, as well as FTES growth rates;

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Grossmont College supports our bargaining unit, AFT 1931, and our administrative leaders in implementing a 16-week compressed calendar that, to the extent possible, aligns with local colleges in our region.