

**A RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSALS FOR AN
ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC CALENDAR (03/4)**

WHEREAS, the University administration has requested a faculty response to the Report of the Study Group on An Alternative Academic Calendar at The George Washington University ("the Report"); and

WHEREAS, the response of the Faculty Senate is informed by the opinions of collective and individual faculty throughout the University; and

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate believes that the proposed mandatory summer term would hinder the University's strategic objective to recruit and retain high quality undergraduates; and

WHEREAS, the ten-week instructional period of the proposed mandatory summer term would have the effect of mandating that courses which are not necessarily suited to a 10-week compression be taught in 10 weeks nevertheless, requiring faculty and students to rush academic delivery, coverage, and learning of material; and

WHEREAS, the proposed mandatory summer term would place a significant economic and logistical burden on the faculty and on the administration of departments, programs, and schools; and

WHEREAS, the Report's proposals appear inconsistent with the requirement by the U.S. Department of Education's 30-week residency requirement for juniors receiving financial aid and the Department of State's requirements for foreign student visas; and

WHEREAS, the Report does not speak to the important corollary issues involving the impact of these options upon graduate education, upon both faculty and student research, upon faculty governance, and upon service; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate views the proposed increase to four credit hour courses without a commensurate increase in contact time as inconsistent with the educational mission of the University; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the proposed "4x4" alternative would greatly diminish the opportunities for breadth and number of required and elective courses students can take; and

WHEREAS, the Report lacks any sort of Business Plan upon which the economic viability of the proposals could be discussed and evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the Report summarily dismisses potentially viable economic alternatives which would be far more consistent with the academic mission of the University than those alternatives upon which the Report focuses; and

WHEREAS, the four-credit course proposals addressed in the Report would be inconsistent with some state-mandated requirements for some schools, and the impact of the proposals addressed in the Report on other accrediting agencies is presently unknown and would require much further investigation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

- (1) That the specific proposals contained in the Report are not in the best academic interests of the University; and
- (2) That these particular proposals do not carry the endorsement of the Faculty and must not be implemented; and
- (3) That no steps be taken to establish an implementation committee or commence implementation; and
- (4) That the Faculty stands ready and willing to develop with the administration other alternatives which meet specifically identified University needs while maintaining academic integrity; and
- (5) That any summer program remain voluntary for students and faculty; and
- (6) That in conformity with the faculty's Faculty Code mandated responsibilities, any further discussion of the topics of alternative academic calendar and/or summer session restructuring fully involve the Faculty, through its Faculty Senate Representatives, so as to remove the severe academic limitations and ambiguities of the set of proposals in the Report.

Educational Policy Committee
October 16, 2003