

Office of the President

March 1, 2019

Mr. Van Rider, President
Academic Senate
Antelope Valley College

RE: Proposal to Change the Academic Calendar

Senate President Rider:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this communication to the Academic Senate regarding the proposal to change the Academic Calendar. There are several proposed options of academic calendars to be considered by the Calendar Committee. I am grateful for the participation.

I want to emphasize that the proposed changes to the calendar are based solely on meeting changing student needs. The changes proposed increase flexibility, increase scheduling options, increase access, enhance completion options, support new initiatives that directly affect student requirements, and address the changing demographics of our students.

In researching and providing support for the need for making an adjustment to meet changing need, the Data Mart at the community college Chancellor's website, www.cccco.edu was referenced. Further, data was retrieved from internal research data outlets, and from statewide demographic data on trends.

Moreover, solicitation of input from across campus, our sister institutions and the community were engaged. This data has been made available on the calendar committee website for the whole college community to peruse. Following is a summary of the main points received.

- The statewide initiatives of Guided Pathways, AB 705 implementation and funding based upon performance have changed the landscape for students.
- AB 705 is not about basic skills but rather the severe reduction of them and the requirement that students complete collegiate level math and English in the first year. The proposed changes afford students greater opportunity to meet this requirement and affords the college the opportunity to provide more scheduling options for students.
- Our students are increasingly going back to work and require greater flexibility in the scheduling available to them if we are to retain them. Our student profile is about 27 years old, working, many have children, and are taking 8-10 units. Greater flexibility is needed, the time compression of intersession and a shorter summer session restrict opportunities for these students.
- The schedule compression of the 5-week intersession and the 8-week summer restrict the number of courses and courses schedules available to students.



- Intersession consistently serves the same range of students of 3,000 – 3,500 students. This means that 11,000 to 11,500 students are left out in the cold during winter intersession. The profile of the students during intersession typically are younger students, tend to be full-time during regular semesters, and do not have the pressures of family or outside work.
- The K-12 student population shows a declining enrollment in each grade level over the next generation. As this population of new students seeks collegiate solutions, flexibility of scheduling is required.
- In times of recession when student demand for classes increases, the proposed change more easily meets the scheduling required to meet the increased demand during a recession.
- The Antelope Valley high school district, particularly, SOAR HS want the college to shift the academic calendar to an earlier spring semester start.
- Both partners at CSUB and CSULB prefer we shift to align with their semester start. We have fully articulated programs with each.
- The Community Advisory Committee (business and community leaders who advise on service area trends) suggest and support the shift to better align with all school districts in the region.
- ASO leaders have attended the Calendar Committee meeting and supported the change as providing greater opportunity for students to complete programs more efficiently.
- The current average number of units to completion at AVC exceeds 90 units.
- Of 72 districts statewide, 23 have intersessions, 49 do not.
- Bakersfield College has never had an intersession and moved to a 12-week summer 3 years ago. Summer enrollment has increased by 4,000 students from 8,000-12,000 over the 3 years.
- The proposed calendar changes decompress the course schedules allowing for more sections of sciences, higher unit courses to be offered and lifting of course limits for students (currently limited to courses during intersession and 3 during summer). Not all courses can be offered in summer, but those high unit laboratory courses are currently only offered in the regular terms.
- The lifting of the time compression of shorter schedules allows for a more robust offering of evening classes to meet the needs of working students during the longer summer session.
- Enhances and extends opportunity for our bachelor's degree students.

There are many other data that support the change to one of the options that have been presented that eliminate intersession and lengthen summer. This change has been presented due to the strong data that has been presented and more importantly to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. This change meets the needs of current students and the greatest number of students as we move into the future.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this summary to the full Academic Senate as an Information item. I further request that as such it be placed in the record.

As always, I am available for questions, clarification and to engage in discussion.

I appreciate and honor everyone's dedication to student and community service.



Ed Knudson
President

