

UNH FACULTY SENATE  
MOTION # XXI-M7  
*Motion for Thanksgiving Break 2017*

1. Motion Presenter: R. Scott Smith, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee

2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 2/20/2017, 2/27/2017

**3. Rationale:** Last year (Motion #XX-M8, continuing a motion from the year before, #XIX-M8) the Faculty Senate voted to cancel classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (hereafter WbT) for one year, but mandated that a review be carried out by the Academic Affairs Committee to determine whether this change should be continued beyond the current year. Because of rules governing the number of classes that must be offered in the semester, the cancellation of classes on WbT necessitates the elimination of Fall Break. If the motion below is passed, we will again not have a Fall Break in AY 2017–18. Furthermore, if we are to cancel classes on WbT, this will necessitate a further change to the calendar. Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017 is, according to the current calendar voted on by the faculty senate, to follow a Monday schedule (to accommodate Fall Break). This day must revert back to a Tuesday schedule to balance out the schedule.

The AAC solicited feedback from Faculty Senators concerning the week before Thanksgiving. The committee received over twenty responses, and the prevailing opinion (over 90%) was in favor of cancelling classes on WbT for a number of reasons, including the safety of students. There were, however, some unfortunate outcomes this past year that gave us pause. First, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving followed a Friday schedule—thus giving the student body less reason to stay on campus on the Monday before Thanksgiving and creating a ten-day break between classes that meet T or TR. To forestall such problems, we propose that Tuesday November 7, 2017 follow a Friday schedule so that the Tuesday before Thanksgiving may remain a Tuesday schedule. Second, the university decided to close dorms on Tuesday *afternoon*, again with the effect of encouraging students to leave for break early.

Thus, we put forward the following motion with two provisions: 1) that the Tuesday before Thanksgiving remain a Tuesday schedule, and 2) that residence life leave dorms open until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning, especially since there are many classes and labs scheduled on Tuesday night.

The Academic Affairs Committee is reviewing the next five-year calendar (AY 2018–22) and will be exploring the possibility of offering a Fall Break while also allowing for classes to be cancelled on WbT.

**4. Motion:** the Senate Academic Affairs Committee moves that the Faculty Senate adjust the calendar for AY 2017-18 as follows: 1) that classes be cancelled on Nov. 22, 2017 (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving), providing that the dorms remain open until 10 a.m. on that Wednesday; 2) that Fall Break, currently scheduled for Oct. 9, 2017, be eliminated; 3) that Tuesday, October 10 revert to a Tuesday schedule; and 4) that Tuesday, Nov. 7 follow a Friday schedule.

**5. Senate action: The motion passed, with 60 in favor, 3 against, and 0 abstentions.**

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on March 21, 2017

- President Mark Huddleston
- Provost Nancy Targett
- P.T. Vasudevan, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Andy Colby, Registrar
- Ted Kirkpatrick, Dean of Students
- Chris Clement, Vice President for Finance & Administration
- Kathy Irla-chesney, Director of Housing
- Ruth Abelmann, Acting Director of Residential Life
- All college deans
- All chairs of academic departments