

| Question # | Comments | FACULTY |
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| 1 | I would like the vacation to be aligned with the local school schedule. | |
| 1 | Most of our students are completing practical requirements in public schools in our area. As a result of the new spring break, our teacher education students missed two weeks of time in their practica. We would prefer if the spring break was the same as that of the public schools. | |
| 1 | My inlaws left their jobs and flew in from New Jersey to care for our children because our spring break did not correspond with my childrens spring break. It was very costly for our family. Not to mention that we did not get to enjoy spring break with our children. | |
| 1 | As has been said by many faculty members, it is difficult for us that have children in the public school system when our Spring Breaks do not occur at the same time. Neither my children, nor I get to have a break and travel. | |
| 1 | The new Spring Break has created a hardship for me and my family as 1) my wife and I do not have our Spring Break anymore at the same time as our children and 2) we now have the additional financial burden do find childcare for the time when our children have their Spring Break. Please DO try to find a compromise with the local city and county schools that works for all of us! | |
| 1 | I like a later spring break, perhaps at about 11-12 weeks, followed by four weeks left of spring. Too many weeks of school after spring break is just depressing. | |
| 1 | It is FAR better educationally for the students. Having a true break in the middle of the term gives students a needed down time spaced appropriately in the term. And it's what the students voted for last year. We need to honor them and their education, not our personal scheduling preferences. | |
| 1 | I feel that the students should be able to go on a break and not be around highschoolers. They should be on breaks with their peers. | |
| 1 | The Dept. of Early Childhood & Reading Education has approximately 225 students whose practicum schedule is disrupted when VSU does not align its breaks with those of Valdosta City and Lowndes Co. School Systems. For years we all worked together to align these breaks. As a mother and a single parent, I regret not having any vacation time with my child from January until the end of his school year. As an educator and parent, I KNOW how this affects many issues surrounding school performance and family relationships. I hope that VSU goes back to what we did for years: aligning our vacation breaks to those of the surrounding school systems. For VSU to attract young professors, this issue critical. | |
| 1 | Now our break is more in the middle of the spring term. Thanks! | |
| 1 | Spring break needs to be in line with the local public schools. | |
| 1 | The break needs to align with the local school system break. | |
| 1 | The former schedule worked better for our graduate students who teach in the area schools. | |
| 1 | I want it aligned with the city school system | |
| 1 | I have a 7 year old attending city schools and it makes no sense to me for our spring break and the city schools spring break are different. In every other college town I've lived the schools were all on the same schdule. | |
| 1 | We need to coordinate with local schools. | |
| 1 | I have children in school and it leads to GREAT hardship. Also many of my neighbors who do not work at VSU but rely on VSU students for after school child care also had GREAT difficulty!! | |
| 1 | I prefer theSpring Break be aligned with that of Valdosta city and Lowndes county schools. | |
| 1 | VSU Spring Break and Fall Break is not aligned with our city and county schools. This is an unimaginable burden on my family. The nice thing will be that I will have a 2-week Spring Break because I will have to take off work to manage my two children. Not to mention the burden such a schedule places on students with children. | |
| 1 | a compromise would be 1 week later...(ex) 2007 break is 12-16 of March, pushing it to 19-23 could be an option (obioously not for 2007, but perhaps 2008?) | |

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| 1 | We are a community oriented university. We should at the minimum have some dialogue with the public schools regarding spring breaks at the same time. We should align our spring break with the K-12 schools. |
| 1 | It still was not aligned with that of our city and county schools. |
| 1 | We should think about the students and not our personal needs. Why increase the stress level of students by going a longer period of time before our spring break. This is college, not high school. |
| 1 | Haven't we discussed this several times recently? Isn't it time to move on to other important topics? |
| 1 | Being new faculty, not sure when spring break was in 2005; but I like spring breaks a little later than we took in 2006. |
| 1 | It's about time it was changed to this more sensible scheduling. |
| 1 | Most students I have talked to preferred the older schedule of the timing of spring break. Some preferred the more recent scheduling--these students are in the minority. Some don't seem to mind when the spring break occurs, just that they get one. For faculty, spring break needs to coincide with the local school systems. A significant number of faculty have children in these local systems. Making these families take separate spring breaks is just wrong. |
| 1 | The new spring break does not coincide with the public schools' break schedule. Those of us with children are hard pressed to make suitable arrangements. |
| 1 | The new spring break occurs at a better time for teaching and learning. |
| 1 | I have always felt it foolish for our academic calendar to mirror/mimic the local public schools... if they want to tie their break in spring to a Christian holiday, let them. We should be non-sectarian first and act like the big dog second. For the city/county schools the travelling Good Friday/Easter dates still balance within their semester since they continue classes into June. For VSU it is assinine to have late semester breaks (our old calendar that kept a week's break at Thanksgiving only to return for a week of classes). |
| 1 | Since many of our faculty and staff and students are parents, and because we have such an emphasis on teacher education through COE, we need to have spring break coincide with the school systems. Last year, our student teachers did not get a spring break because when VSU was on spring break, they still taught at the schools and when the schools were on spring break, they still had classes at VSU. This makes no sense. |
| 1 | As a parent, I would like Spring Break to coincide with the local school systems to facilitate family-friendly work arrangements. |
| 1 | What matters is that the time of the VSU spring break coinsides with the Spring Break for the public schools |
| 1 | I would prefer that the spring break coincide with the public school spring break. Its not at all important that it is at midterm. |
| 1 | Does not coincide with local schools. |
| 1 | But would rather have VSU break coincide with local schools |
| 1 | I would like our Spring Break to coincide with the public schools. The lack of coordination is a problem both personally and professionally. Personally because I have schoolaged children and professionally because I am clinic director/practicum coordinator for VSU Speech/Hearing Clinic and we see many school aged children in our clinic. When the schedules dont line up our graduate students miss out on many contact hours for their practicum. |
| 1 | It makes it very difficult for faculty, staff, and students who have families or work with the local education systems. Many education students got no break whatso ever, and many other students ended up bring their kids to class or missing class when their kids were on break. |
| 1 | I do realize we spent much time trying to coordinate with area schools but it seems that is no longer a realistic plan. |
| 1 | The break is for the students. THhs is when they want it and it is also better for academic reasons--it allows more time to prepare for finals and allows them to be off when allother UG institutions are off.... |

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| 1 | a break in the middle of the term is the best academically for our students. it might not be convenient for faculty with small children, but we are in the business of educating university students and we are mandated to do what is best for that effort. |
| 1 | What i didn't like about the Spring break last year was that it came between advising and registration week. |
| 1 | I prefer for Thanksgiving break to be one week long. I do not like having a "fall break". I find it to be a problem for scheduling. Also, for those who have family out of state it makes travel difficult. Spring break has in the past been a good opportunity to attend national conferences which are often in the spring near Easter/Passover. |
| 1 | However, the VSU scheduling committee should discuss with the local school systems the possibility of moving their spring breaks to match our earlier break. |
| 1 | Many of the faculty have spouses that work in the local school system. To have separate spring breaks in a sense is punishment for having cohsean careers in education. |
| 1 | I would prefer Spring Break to fit with my children's school schedule. However, even if it is an inconvenience to me, I think VSU students' scheduling concerns should take precedence. |
| 1 | Fall and spring breaks should benefit VSU students, not the faculty who teach these students. |
| 1 | What matters more is that the public school and VSU spring breaks coincide. |
| 1 | I want all breaks to coincide with the local schools. |
| 1 | It should align with the spring break of the local schools. |
| 1 | I think VSU's spring break should coincide with the Lowndes High and/or Valdosta High spring break schedules. |
| 1 | Having Spring Break when it was last year, disrupted the community. The community always opeates better when our organizations operate on a common thread. It was a total inconvenience, especially for our nontraditional students, who are growing by leaps and bounds, as well as faculty and staff. |
| 1 | Fall and Spring breaks are for students, not for faculty and staff. The breaks should occur close to midterm. |
| 1 | I think it is too early. I would not want to go swimming in the oceans in Florida in the middle of March. Also I understand that we are here for the students, but please remember that staff and faculty have children as well, and it would be nice to enjoy a spring break with them. |
| 1 | My class participants need a break later. Exhaustion tends to set in later -- say 2/3s the way through a semester. Later breaks help them to regain a freshness. The earlier break did not serve them as well. |
| 1 | I prefer to have it with my children in the city schools. |
| 1 | Better if it is on the same schedule as the school system |
| 1 | It is a pedagogically more sound. When the break is at the end of March or the beginning of April, students shut down for that last 3-4 weeks of class. It needs to remain a true spring break. I understand the frustration of those with children in K-12 schools, but this decision should be about OUR students, not theirs. |
| 1 | Spring break at the end of term, about 3 week before finals, makes teaching and learning difficult for the last 3 weeks, and it is a very long stretch of time from Jan-April with no break. |
| 1 | we are an off campus site and have a different mid term dates. |
| 1 | If we wait until near the end, we just as well not have a break. Late breaks destroy the momentum such that we should just shut down then. |
| 1 | I would like our break scheduled along with the local school systems' break. Also, numerous students said they wish spring break had been later for better (warmer) weather. |
| 1 | The past Spring Break was way too late. April makes no sense at all. |
| 1 | Match to local school schedule |

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| 1 | The spring break is not the time when my family or any public school or private in the entire county!! ANyone who has kids is negatively affected by this new spring break period. Please return to the old spring break time. The senators who voted for the new spring break do not have kids and were selfish in their votes. |
| 1 | I do not have school age children. Those who do would prefer VSU's Spring Break be the same week as area schools. |
| 1 | As a parent, the new midterm spring break causes problems for me. I couldn't take my family anywhere or really do anything because my kids were in school while I was off. Then, when my kids spring break arrived I had to find something to do with them. To be blunt, it negatively impacted my productivity at VSU last year, because I ended up at home for significant periods during my kids spring break to avoid paying a babysitter, and I know other VSU faculty who did the same. I have heard that the local school districts were willing to discuss a compromise spring break time but the VSU Faculty Senate wasn't interested in discussing compromises. Well, get off your duffs and start talking! |
| 1 | When the break is in April it is a REALLY long time from MLK Day to the break. It's nice to take a break around mid-term and divide the semester up more evenly. |
| 1 | I prefer the timing, but only if it coincides with the breaks established by the school systems in the area. |
| 1 | I do not like the fall break.....I like a week off at Thanksgiving! I think the students like the spring break the way it was last spring. |
| 1 | VSU should align the spring break with the public schools. |
| 1 | it was very inconvenient in that it was not aligned with the local school systems breaks |
| 1 | This makes a huge difference in my teaching. All of my students loved it. When the break occurs near the end of the semester, it seems better to skip it altogether. |
| 1 | Break not aligned with local schools creates issues with childcare, etc. |
| 1 | Want it to coincide with Lowndes County Schools |
| 1 | It is difficult for folks who have children in school and/or who have a spouse that works to find a common time for spring break. Mid-term is too soon to have a week off. One thought might be to try to coordinate with the area schools. Another idea would be to build in a couple of two day breaks, one in late February and another in early April. Another might be to keep the break around the Easter Holiday. Not all faculty are involved with Easter, but it is a fairly common spring break time for schools. |
| 1 | Yes, the earlier break is needed. Students have difficulty maintaining focus on course material throughout February and March when no break is present. Students also need the added weeks before final exams in April and March. With the later spring break, students would forget much of the earlier class material. |
| 1 | I would like our spring break to align with the public school break - my son and I had different breaks and it would be great if they were scheduled at the same time. |
| 1 | It is ridiculous that I do not have a SINGLE holiday with my children in the local school system. If a strategic goal is to retain faculty then work with those of us with children! |
| 1 | Full week at Thanksgiving is much better for travel to family and coincides with full week my children have off at Lowndes county schools. It is late in the term, but maybe we could take Columbus day off like the rest of the country. Midterm break amounts to so much of nothing. |
| 1 | We should be aligned with the City and County school schedules. |
| 1 | Because it is not aligned with other school spring breaks in town. We can't have a spring break with our kids, besides we have to arrange them to be taken care of while we work. It costs a lot. |
| 2 | Students now have 2 fall breaks. They also "take off" the few days prior to Thanksgiving. Forget the fall break and give us the full week of Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | Again, not aligned with local school breaks creates childcare issues for faculty, staff, students. |

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| | I would rather have the whole week off at Thanksgiving than to have a four day weekend. It just seemed like wasted time. Plus, most students either go ahead and skip classes during the new Thanksgiving break, OR, they have to leave anyways due to the residence halls closing down at 5pm on Tuesday leaving them with no place to go Tuesday night after their night classes. |
| 2 | However, again could you please coordinate with the local schools??!!! |
| 2 | Same reasoning as in Question 1. |
| 2 | Like in the prior response -- the later break seems to be more timely in the rejuvenation process. Additionally, we had a lot of students cutting classes to "round up" a four or five day break into a nine day break. |
| 2 | A real fall break in addition to a thanksgiving break similar to what public schools and businesses get is good. |
| 2 | Students still take the whole week of Thanksgiving off -- so the fall break is virtually useless for keeping students the first half of T-giving week. |
| 2 | While the week long break during the thanksgiving holiday week was liked I believe that the earlier break near midterm is better. I believe that it is better because it gives students, faculty and staff an additional break that is needed for reviewing/evaluating what has been done in the classroom up until that time and also I believe it gives everyone a much needed breather. Many faculty have made comments about timing of the break with the local schools because of their children (and let it slip-- finding childcare) as their main reason for continuing the fall break during Thanksgiving week. I don't feel that this is a good reason. While all things should be considered, we should consider 'our students' first and if nothing else midterm means 'Midterm'. Last year I heard more complaints about the midterm break from faculty than students. I personally asked several of my students about the midterm break last year and I had several who preferred the break during the time of thanksgiving week being an entire week so they could travel not to home but with a friend(s) to other places before going home after the semester. I had an equal amount of students who liked the break earlier, closer to midterm, for catching up or just to take a breather. I prefer the new fall break for these reasons. I believe that it not only allows the students but also the faculty and staff an additional time period, be it only a couple of days, in which to get caught up or to take a needed pause. |
| 2 | What matters more is that the public school and VSU fall breaks coincide. |
| 2 | I like the new fall break but would like it better if it were coordinated with the two day fall break the local school systems have. Their fall break is the weekend before ours this year. |
| 2 | The timing of the fall break is not beneficial to us in nursing due to 2 missed clinical days. The Thanksgiving break was much better. It is late in the term but still better for families, etc. |
| 2 | I prefer a full week at Thanksgiving. The students don't attend very well the days we now have meeting that week. |
| 2 | The only problem with the new break is that it causes scheduling problems for courses with large numbers of lab sections. |
| 2 | Those students and faculty who have family out of state (or out of region) can't take advantage of the new, broken-up Fall and Thanksgiving breaks. Last year, rather than visiting family during the one long break, I got to have two depressing little breaks, by myself. |
| 2 | SAme as above! |
| 2 | it was a relief from what is otherwise a non-stop marathon to thanksgiving. from there, everyone, faculty and students, are so exhausted that getting through the last week of the term after thanksgiving is a monumental feat. the midterm break definitely made it easier for me and for the 150 students i had at the time. |
| 2 | How many more times is this topic going to continue to come up and be bantered around? Don't we have more important things to be concerned about other than when we get a break? I'm just glad to have one... doesn't matter when it is. How about doing a survey as to whether we should unionize and have some clout for a collective bargaining agreement? |

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| 2 | I do not like it. I prefer a one week Thanksgiving break. It allows better travel for those who have family living out of state. The 2-day fall break is just a pain in the neck to schedule around. |
| 2 | I would prefer to return to a full week at Thanksgiving instead. |
| 2 | Semesters can be rather lengthy. It helped to break up the monotony. |
| 2 | Same comment. |
| 2 | It did not work for me at all. Too early in the semester compared to what I am used to. |
| 2 | For Fall Break, I would prefer that we go back to the old way of getting off the entire week of Thanksgiving with no prior break in the semester. |
| 2 | The new fall break is a waste of time in that it is not really a break as it accomplishes very little either academically or personally. When you ask students if they would rather have the full week of Thanksgiving off or a fall break and only three days off during Thanksgiving week over 90% state that they would rather have the full week off at Thanksgiving and forget about the two day break in October. Having the entire week of Thanksgiving off allowed for students to finish papers and semester projects as well as giving people the time to spend with their families. |
| 2 | this was forced on the senate by the college of business. it is silly. i would much prefer the 1 week of thanksgiving. the students do both anyway with the fake break |
| 2 | I want all breaks to coincide with the local schools. |
| 2 | The break should align with the local schools. |
| 2 | I would rather have a full week break at Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | I MUCH preferred the old system of having a week at Thianksiving! Please help reinstate this if possible. Thanks! |
| 2 | Lets just skip the break and get the classes finished |
| 2 | But it should be a Thursday-Friday break because of the damage it does to classes that meet only on Monday, given that we miss a Monday for Labor Day. |
| 2 | This creates problems for lab courses in which sections are spread over several days of the week. Having holidays over part of the week in October and again in November (Thanksgiving) eliminates 2 weeks of instruction if, as in my case, one wishes to have all 4 laboratory sections of the same course synchronized in terms of subject matter and testing. It would be better to adjust the semester so that it begins and ends later and take a full week at Thanksgiving as we have done in the past. |
| 2 | I personally like the longer Thanksgiving break as it allows me to travel to see family and friends. Although I have my opinions about the breaks, it is important to get the opinions of the students also. I'm happy as long as I get a break; mid semester or at the end. |
| 2 | Only makes scheduling problems and shortens any useful time during the Thanksgiving holiday |
| 2 | Since we instituted the fall break, we only have 3 days for Thanksgiving, while at the same time, the public school systems went to a week long Thanksgiving break. In addition, our fall break did not coincide with the school system fall break (it was a week later) which did not help those with children in school. At least make the fall break the same as the school system. There definitely needs to be some communication between us and the school systems. I would be in favor of the fall break if it was the same time as the school systems. If it cannot be, then I don't prefer it. I would rather have the breaks match the public school breaks. |
| 2 | Having a break in October (Fall break) and a break in November (Thanksgiving) was a terrible disruption for my classes. Class test and attendance averages plunged after the Fall break and never recovered. |
| 2 | Nice to have a midterm break, and the old week-long Thanksgiving break right before exams was not beneficial to students. Thanks again! |
| 2 | How about taking two days from Christmas break to give us back a week at Thanksgiving? |

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| | This fall break concept is ridiculous. Now students take the entire week of fall break AND the entire week of Thanksgiving off. This is what VSU has promoted by enacting the fall break. I personally travel during Thanksgiving and VSU effectively eliminated by ability to go to the Midwest and see my family during Thanksgiving by having classes the first 2 days of Thanksgiving week. Thanks a lot for keeping my family from going to see relatives during the holiday week! |
| 2 | I prefer the week long Thanksgiving break. |
| 2 | Ditto for fall break-As a parent, I preferred having the week long Thanksgiving break. This allowed us to visit with the grandparents over Thanksgiving but still allow us to remain home at Christmas without a lot of grief. |
| 2 | I would rather have the week at Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | needs to align with local schools breaks |
| 2 | I like it, however, it would be even better if we could have one full week at the midsemester. Breaks that are designed to coordinate with the local school systems do not fit our teaching or our students. |
| 2 | Students don't come to class the week of Thanksgiving even with a fall break. I would prefer the week at Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | It does not correspond with our childrens break and we are unable to go visit family at Thanksgiving due to the short break. |
| 2 | I would rather have a week during thanksgiving. |
| 2 | The freshmen and sophomore students in my classes that needed to attend class due to poor grades took of the entire week in October, not just the two days for the break. The same students then took of the entire week at Thanksgiving. End result, they skipped an entire week of school or 6.67% of the semesters classes. If we are supposed to work for the good of the student and increase retention, we should not give them split hoildays that induce the poorer students to skip an entire week. |
| 2 | I liked the longer break when combined with Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | Two short breaks are more educationally sound. |
| 2 | Only if it is at the same time as the city schools. |
| 2 | It gives a nice break inbetween holidays. |
| 2 | A much more intelligent scheduling. |
| 2 | Students in my classes HATED the fall break last year. They kept asking why the break times were split. When I explained their was someone in the faculty senate who advocated for the students, some were actually angry and said, "well they didn't ask me." Many students said the current configuration denied them the chance to visit relatives at Thanksgiving break. I would prefer the full break to occur during Thanksgiving which is traditional. I can then also visit with my whole family with my relatives-- |
| 2 | I would rather have the extra days at Thanksgiving than have a fall break. |
| 2 | I preferred the week-long Thanksgiving break. |
| 2 | I prefer not having a fall break and having a full week at Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | The Thanksgiving week break was more functional than a fall break. The two days are not a significant break. |
| 2 | I want it aligned with the city school system. |
| 2 | Its a long time from Labor Day to Thanksgiving. It's nice to take a break around mid-term. |
| 2 | The Fall break was a waste. I took surveys in all my classes. The only ones that preferred a Fall break were the incoming Freshmen. The others (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors) all preferred to have a full-week at Thanksgiving. The week of Thanksgiving, 75% of my students were absent on Monday and Tuesday...they got the Fall break and they took a full-week at Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | I prefer a longer Thanksgiving break. |
| 2 | I prefer the Spring Break be aligned with that of Valdosta city and Lowndes county schools. |
| 2 | Our Fall Break still is not aligned with that of our city and county schools. |
| 2 | Does coincide with local schools. |

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| 2 | Would like it to coincide with local schools |
| 2 | Prefer no break in the Fall and end the semester earlier |
| 2 | I teach a class that includes labs. The new fall break schedule causes problems for my labs, I have to 1) reduce the number of labs I teach or 2) spend several weeks where I am teaching two different lab subjects per week because the new fall break cancels early week labs (M and T) while the Thanksgiving Break cancels late week labs (W-F). |
| 2 | The two break system makes two very short breaks. I would have preferred a week-long break if Thanksgiving didn't come so near the end of the semester. Again, coordinate breaks with local school system. |
| 2 | I would rather get a whole week for Thanksgiving rather than a Monday and Tuesday during the month of October. Many students indicate to me that fall break interferes with their family gathering at Thanksgiving and that they are not in favor of a Fall break. |
| 2 | Only if it coincides with the public schools!! |
| 2 | Science classes lose an extra week of lab because of fall break. The two days off don't provide enough of a break to be meaningful, nor do they coincide with any breaks scheduled by the area's school systems. |
| 2 | I believe the mid term break allows for good instructional periods prior to and following the break. |
| 2 | If we do a fall break it should be a week earlier (around Columbus Day). Some of the local schools take a break then. I really prefer the week at Thanksgiving or no fall break and get out earlier. I wonder what the student would like. |
| 2 | We do not need such a break at all. We should do what the major universities do and just take Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | A break only at Thanksgiving is as bad as an April Spring Break. |
| 2 | Although I generally speaking like the idea of a Fall Break, my wife and I encounter the same problems as with the Spring Break that apparently no attempt is made to align the Fall Break with the local schools, with the same consequences as listed above (no family vacation, additional financial burden). |
| 2 | see comments related to spring break--I've argued strongly for a mid-term break in fall since before our adoption of the semester system in 98. |
| 2 | Our breaks need to be at the same time as the local public schools as many of our faculty, staff, and students have children in school. |
| 2 | What matters is that the VSU and the Valdosta and Lowndes County Public School have Spring Break at the same time. |
| 2 | Would rather have longer Thanksgiving break. |
| 2 | I would prefer to eliminate fall break and have no classes on Thanksgiving week. |
| 2 | I prefer having more time off at Thanksgiving. |
| 2 | Read previous comment about aligning breaks with local school systems. |
| 2 | I enjoyed the old whole week off, which my kids have off as well. Provides for more days off in "holiday season" and creates a smooth landing for end of fall semester. |
| 2 | I questioned my students and most just slept.....I would rather have classes and a long break at Thanksgiving time:) |
| 2 | Having Fall break at Thanksgiving and coming back for one week of classes and finals is a huge waste of time and momentum. the students are burnt out in October and need the break nearer to mid-term. Plus, it's what they requested last year when polled. We need to stay with what's best for them educationally, not what fits best with our personal schedules. Lots of faculty, staff and students, don't have children in school (or have children in other school systems with different breaks) and accommodating parents with Fall and Spring breaks to coincide a local school schedule is arbitrary and counterintuitive. We need to do what's best for students. |