

Bill Wynne is recommending that we reduce the number of teaching days in the academic calendar from the current 75 to 73 beginning with the next academic year, AY 11/12. Doing so requires a change by the Kansas Board of Regents. A Senate endorsement will strengthen the presentation to the Board.

The change offers the following advantages:

- 1) The fall semester would begin on a Monday as opposed to a Thursday without altering the final exam schedule that runs for a week, Monday-Friday. This would also allow the fall pre-session classes to begin a week after summer classes end, rather than the next business day. Starting classes on a Thursday has always been awkward.
- 2) The spring semester would finish in time for the final exam schedule to run Monday-Friday and conclude before commencement. Currently, there are final exams after commencement, which has always been a frustration for both faculty and students.
- 3) The earlier spring conclusion would benefit the Office of Residential Life by enabling them to clear out the dorms on the Sunday following commencement as opposed to a mid-week clear-out necessitated by the current schedule. Evidently this will yield significant financial benefits.