

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Office of Educational Services & Student Success

Meeting Notes

Alternative Academic Calendar Committee (AACC)

Thursday, August 24, 2023

11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87268937347>

Committee Members in Attendance:

(Chabot College) Jason Ames, Paulette Lino, Patricia Shannon, Rob Yest, Megan Parker, Noell Adams

(Las Positas College) Nan Ho, Joel Gagnon, Craig Kutil, Jason Maxwell, David Rodriguez

(District Office) Theresa Fleischer Rowland, John Mullen (Consultant), Liem Huynh, Estella Sanchez

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Theresa Pedrosa, Dana Nakase

Others in Attendance:

David Reed, Ashley Young, Kevin Harral, Brian Goo, Kristen Whittaker, Rachel Ugale, Bruce Griffin, Tamica Ward

Agenda

1. Welcome Back, Review Membership Changes, Revisit Committee Charge
2. Summer Updates
3. Draft Fall 2023 Outcomes and Events Timeline
4. Process Discussion - Timeline, Forums, Engagement Strategies, Study Groups, Committee of the Whole
5. Closing with Next Steps

1. Welcome Back, Review Membership Changes, Revisit Committee Charge – Theresa and Jason

Discussion

Theresa opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back. She reviewed the meeting agenda and announced changes to the Committee membership. Theresa mentioned the Committee will meet seven times for the fall term with today's meeting being one of the seven. These meetings will set the tone and ideas heard to help meet the due diligence in forming a recommendation to the Chancellor by the December timeframe.

Conclusion

Jason highlighted an update to the Progress Summary on the Alternative Academic Calendar Committee (AACC) webpage, which indicated the recommendation made to the Chancellor in the spring. The meeting then moved to Agenda Item 2.

Action items

No Action.

2. Summer Updates – John, Jason, Theresa, Others?

Discussion

Jason invited the Committee to share summer updates. The following summer updates and findings were shared by Committee members.

- Progress made over the summer exploring the impact of a 16-week calendar on shared governance work.
- Research into building a College hour into a 16-week calendar.
- Findings from analyzing other Colleges that have transitioned to a compressed calendar.

The Committee held a discussion on the varying hours of work for counselors and other non-instructional faculty members at different institutions, with a focus on those operating on a compressed calendar. Results indicated workloads could increase under a shorter semester, potentially leading to less time for non-student contact responsibilities and by extending the non-instructional contract by two weeks could allow for counseling services to continue outside the regular semester.

Conclusion

Jason thanked the Committee for the summer updates. Theresa shared that she and Jason learned from the state Chancellor's office (CCCCO) that the process of applying for a compressed calendar is informal and will allow a back and forth discussion with the state system. The co-chairs thanked John for his guidance which has prepared us well, as confirmed by the meeting with the CCCCCO.

Action items

The committee will work on planning forums, methodology for gathering feedback, and developing a district-wide online survey.

3. Draft Fall 2023 Outcomes and Events Timeline – John

Discussion

John shared that available research on the impact of compressed calendars on student learning outcomes shows that it modestly benefits student success. There is no study that points to the alternative. Despite extensive efforts we have not found a disaggregated study by specific student populations and impact of compressed calendar on student success. It was brought up that student success in these studies tends to be only measured by course success rates. It was asked whether there were any studies that looked at student success more broadly to include persistence rates or graduation rates at a disaggregated level. This would help understand and prepare for any potential impact to underserved students and equity gaps. It was noted that there is some research nationwide and also on our webpage. A brief discussion was held on the efforts made to reach out to the State Chancellor's office to find disaggregated data around student success. That office also noted a lack of specific data in this area. John discussed twelve steps that should be taken towards potentially adopting a compressed calendar, including a month-by-month breakdown of plans for the semester. The highlights included discussing objectives for the fall semester, identifying and pursuing answers to open

questions, developing a draft for the proposed adoption year, establishing a block scheduling pattern, and planning forums for the entire district population. Discussion followed about district-wide capacity to move to a compressed calendar.

Conclusion

John agreed to seek more national data on student success to respond to David Rodriguez's questions. The committee discussed the complexities of configuring a new system with many functional users and whether or not a calendar change is called for. Theresa concurred that 2026-27 was a reasonable adoption year to focus on, given new campus facilities coming on line, the extended scheduling timeline we use, department capacity, and that the Calendar Committee will meet in September to set the 2025-26 academic year. The meeting moved to Agenda Item 4.

Action items

No Action.

4. Process Discussion - Timeline, Forums, Engagement Strategies, Study Groups, Committee of the Whole – Jason

Discussion

Jason initiated a discussion with the Committee about engagement strategies and the timeline for the committee's work. He then expressed concern about burnout and the need to reach out to stakeholders, particularly students. It was noted that meaningful and robust engagement with stakeholders was needed to help the district community gain a broad understanding of the issues being considered before opinions or feedback are gathered. There was a concern that some might not yet have opportunity to really understand the change being considered. Additionally, it was brought up that timing of engagement should be after we have a more finalized sense of the pros and cons of moving forward with a 16-week schedule. It was also mentioned (in the chat) that there are existing models of student surveys on our research page.

Conclusion

Jason proposed that the committee needs to gather as much information as possible by late November to make a recommendation to the Chancellor by December. He suggested the need for focused discussions and possibly forming new work groups. Theresa proposed reaching out to specific groups, such as stem majors and equity populations. John noted that given the short meetings, work group activities might not be practical. The meeting moved to Agenda Item 5.

Action items

1. Teresa and Jason will draft a communication for the committee to discuss at the next meeting.
2. The committee will work on engagement strategies and present ideas at the next meeting.
3. John will develop a letterhead for the electronic newsletters.

5. Closing with Next Steps – Theresa

Discussion

Theresa expressed thanks to the Committee for their participation and outlined the schedule for upcoming AACC meetings.

Conclusion

Meeting concluded.

Action items

No Action.