

Students Perspective on the CSU Stanislaus Academic Calendar.

By: Joel D. Hawkins

The purpose of this letter explain my conclusion of the 4-1-4 Academic Calendar structure in the context of the current CSU climate. I focused my study on the critical variables that impact CSU Stanislaus's, administration, faculty, staff, and students to objectively analyze the viability of the 4-1-4 structure. While analyzing the subject matter I maintained an unbiased scientific approach to what is in CSU Stanislaus's best interest.

Due to the current economic environment I must make the recommendation to modify the 4-1-4 academic calendar. The reasoning behind my decision is based on my research, interviews, and experiences with other current students to CSU Stanislaus. If the 4-1-4 academic calendar is modified I must stress that alternatives to current class scheduling and channels of distribution be made available to counterbalance resource deficiencies. I thank you for your consideration and hope we make a decision that is in the best interests for CSU Stanislaus.

Based on my research, interviews, and experiences, there appears to be one major element effecting all aspects of campus life. From current class offerings to fee increases all members of CSU Stanislaus have been impacted by California's economic environment. It is true that the CSU system has in the past, 1980s, 1990s, and so on, have been reactive to cyclical economic fluctuation verses taking a proactive approach, and now we are experiencing the squeeze from external forces again. At this point the stakes are to the point of deconstructive cannibalism. That brings me to my first point: think of how much money could have been saved if the Winter Term was from it's inception a, "Winter Interim Session." The accounting resources alone could have been worth the savings.

Aside from the savings to the CSU Stanislaus, I would like to mention a short story; I believe this will add a visceral component regarding this situation. After attending the open forum on July 23, I encountered a young man who taught at CSU Stanislaus for the 2008/2009 year. He was bagging my groceries at the supermarket! According to him he discovered via email, that the classes he was to teach 2009/2010 would not be offered. It is unfortunate that economic forces out weigh the benefits of supplying a wide array of classes and some facility have are ready experienced loss of economic sustainability.

Winter Term was a great experience for me. I am the type of person that thrives in a fast pace atmosphere. During Winter Term I took 10 units and received the highest marks ever in my collegiate

career. It was not because the classes were easy or the material was diluted, rather it was because I was immersed in the curriculum. For other students they like Winter Term because it gives them the opportunity to focus on one difficult class. For a small number of students during Winter Term they have the opportunity to travel and complete innovative courses that could not be offered at other times. Finally some students do not attend Winter Term, instead they use the time for personal matters, work, vacations, and so forth.

It is important to maintain key operations of CSU Stanislaus thus, I must recommend modifying the current 4-1-4 academic calendar with the conscious plan to integrate the positive aspects of Winter Term into future Academic Calendars. While doing so it will also mitigate the negative economic burden to CSU Stanislaus. In order to do so, whether offering alternative course scheduling, shorter courses, more internet courses or televised courses, it is of grave value that students and faculty be able to complete their responsibilities without causing undue economic hardship and prolonged enrollment to CSU Stanislaus. Thank you for your time as I look forward to a refined calendar with all of the qualities that make CSU Stanislaus continue to have a high graduation success rate.