Faculty revise calendar

Brian Bourne

For years, students will have one extra week after the last day of classes to make changes to the schedule beginning in fall. This means that students will need to consider significant changes, including starting work for both semesters and all four classes in the same week.

A committee of faculty members approved the new changes to fall 2002. "We had some meetings where we presented various options, different types of schedules," said Ralph Coppi, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs. Most details of the calendar will remain the same, but the fall calendar now begins on Sunday, August 31, one week before Labor Day, and the spring semester will start on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day.

"A lot of people thought we needed school for half a year, and it was too bad, particularly since we don’t have an extended break when summer arrives, so it would only help," Coppi said.

Coppi said other possible changes included eliminating Columbus Day at the end of each semester or scheduling spring break earlier, but the committee concluded that the changes implemented this year would significantly benefit students, including the addition of a yearly summer session.

The Truman Bookstore will order used books beginning the same day student orders will be accepted, a change from previous years when book buy-back began, but faculty members say that this change is not likely to hurt students.

"The instructor might tell [students] in the spring, 'Yeah, I’m using this textbook in the fall, so you have to have it,'" bookstore manager Terry Woodring said. "But if the instructor doesn’t tell you, you don’t need to buy that book back.

The Truman Bookstore will only pay up to 50 percent of a book’s value when the book will be resold. Even if a student purchased a new book, he or she may not sell it back at 50 percent of the original cost.

There are a lot of students, who have books that are worth half of what they were worth at the beginning of the semester," said Ralph Coppi, acting dean of faculty."I don’t know," Woodring added. "But if the instructor doesn’t tell you, you don’t need to buy that book back.

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