



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

# **Fall Reading Week**

**Students' Council  
October 11th, 2011**

**Presented by Rory Tighe**

# Presentation Outline



- Fall Reading Week process to date
- Fall Reading Week Task Force
- Options to create a Fall Reading Week
- Scenarios proposed by the Task Force

# 2010/2011 FRW Discussions



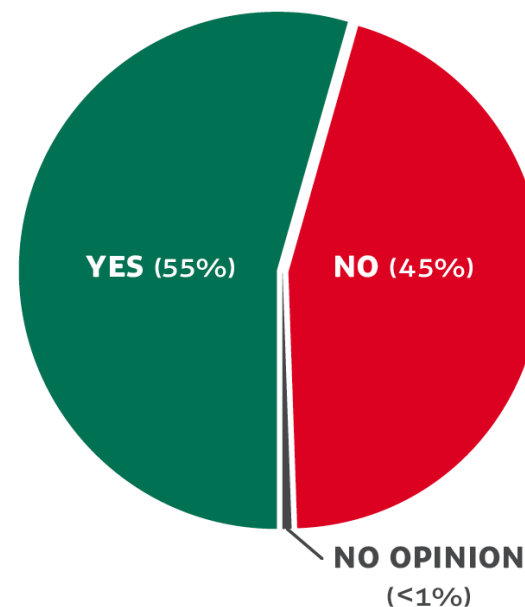
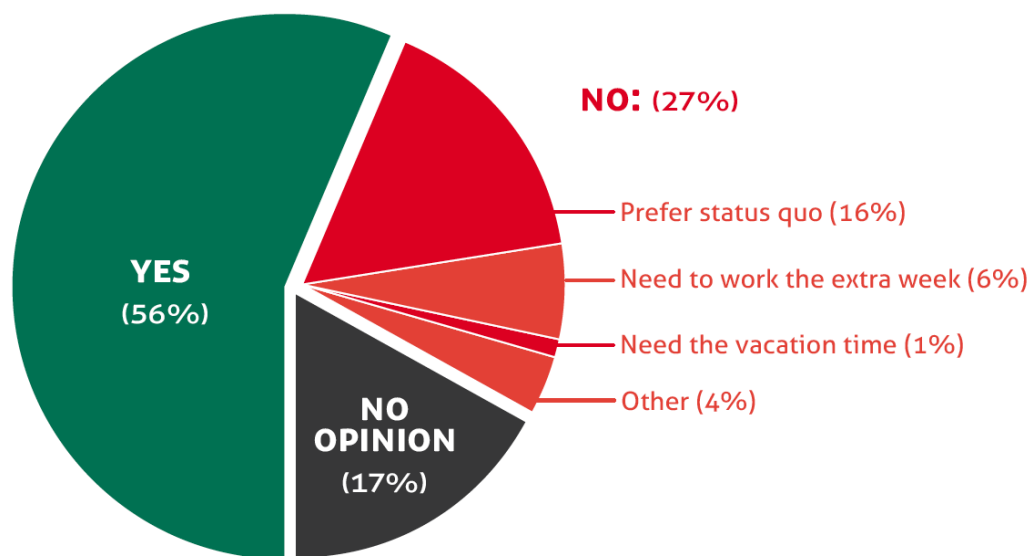
- Nick Dehod campaigned on pursuing a Fall Reading Week in 2010 SU Exec Elections
- Research was conducted on a variety of topics pertaining to the creation of a Fall Reading Week
  - Mental health issues in the Fall Term
  - Logistical concerns for the U of A
  - Comparative data from Canadian universities

# 2010/2011 FRW Discussions



- Consultations with University community
  - Administrators, Associate Deans, etc.
  - Proposal discussed at University governance and administrative committees
- Undergraduate Students Survey
- Plebiscite in 2011 SU Exec Elections

# Student Survey/Plebiscite Results



# Fall Reading Week Task Force



- Diverse Membership reporting to the Provost
- Biweekly meetings held May – August
- Original intention was to conclude the Task Force with a recommendation
  - Alterations to the Terms of Reference
  - Culminated with four potential scenarios

# Task Force Terminology



- Options vs. Scenarios
  - An *option* is used to describe a change to the academic schedule that would free up days to be used for the Fall Reading Week
  - A *scenario* represents a plausible representation of the academic schedule that includes one or more options in order to accommodate a Fall Reading Week

# Option: Remove Instructional Days



- Reduce 1 – 3 Instructional Days
  - Should standardize the academic schedule
  - May pose problems for accreditation
  - May result in the perception that the University is becoming less academic
  - May cause the belief that students are receiving less for their tuition
  - May allow instructors to catch up on grading and research proposals



## Option: Start Earlier

- Start before Labour Day
  - Will impact Summer field courses
  - May pose problems for TA training
  - Will reduce the time for students to earn money
  - May cause difficulties for Grad/International students to arrive on time
  - Will reduce the time for summer construction
- Start the Tuesday following Labour Day
  - May require Orientation to be condensed
  - May cause problems for students arranging utilities

## Option: Change the end of term



- Eliminate breaks before exams
  - May contribute to student stress
  - May affect students in block classes more acutely
  - May add pressure on instructors before exams
- Move exams further back
  - Should reduce the number of grades submitted before the break
  - May cause a problem for travel plans
- Condense the exam period
  - Should require three exam slots/day
  - May contribute to student stress

# Final Four Scenarios



Option	Description	Start Classes	End Classes	Study Break	Exam Period
	<i>Current Schedule</i>	<i>Wednesday after Labour Day</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday – Dec. 22nd</i>
<b>A</b>	Start a Week Early	Wednesday before Labour Day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>C</b>	Reduce IDs (1), Start Tuesday, Push back Exam Break	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>E</b>	Reduce IDs (2), Start Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>G</b>	Reduce IDs (3)	Wednesday	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday

# Current Academic Schedule



Option Description	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Study Break	Examination Period	Instructional Days
Current Academic Schedule	Wednesday, September 7th	Wednesday, December 7th	Thursday, December 8th	December 9th – 22nd	63

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
Instructional Days	12	13	14	12	12	12.6

# Current Academic Schedule



September 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Scenario A: Start a week early



Option Description	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Study Break	Examination Period	Instructional Days
Start a week early	Wednesday, August 31st	Wednesday, December 7th	Thursday, December 8th	December 9th – 22nd	63*

\*63 IDs suggests that one extra break day would be added to the Fall Term

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
Instructional Days	11	13	14	13	13	12.6

# Scenario A: Start a week early



August 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Scenario C: Drop 1 ID, Start Tuesday, Exam Break Back



Option Description	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Study Break	Examination Period	Instructional Days
Reduce Instructional Days (1), Start Tuesday, Push Exam Break (1)	Tuesday, September 6th	Thursday, December 8th	Friday, December 9th	December 10th - 22nd	62

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
Instructional Days	11	13	13	13	12	12.4



# Scenario C: Drop 1 ID, Start Tuesday, Exam Break Back



September 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Option E: Drop 2 IDs, Start Tuesday



Option Description	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Study Break	Examination Period	Instructional Days
Reduce Instructional Days (2), Start Tuesday	Tuesday, September 6th	Wednesday, December 7th	Thursday, December 8th	December 9th – 22nd	61

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
Instructional Days	11	13	13	12	12	12.2

# Option E: Drop 2 IDs, Start Tuesday



September 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Option G: Drop 3 IDs



Option Description	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Study Break	Examination Period	Instructional Days
Reduce Instructional Days (3)	Wednesday, September 7th	Wednesday, December 7th	Thursday, December 8th	December 9th – 22nd	60

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Average
Instructional Days	11	12	13	12	12	12

# Option G: Drop 3 IDs



September 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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# Questions or Comments?