

Resolution to Reschedule the Standard Break Between Classes on the UTK and UTIA Campuses

WHEREAS, the recent move to emphasize the unity of the UTIA and UTK campuses as the state's flagship, land grant university calls for more collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the faculty of this flagship, land grant university place a high value on student success in our classrooms; and,

WHEREAS, undergraduate students in the Herbert College of Agriculture have significant portions of their ~~course load~~ course load in both geographic regions; and,

WHEREAS, graduate students from all parts of the university who take courses and teach courses across the same geographic range face similar challenges; and,

WHEREAS, an express bus cannot guarantee they could make the journey from the Ayers Hall region to the UTIA campus, with the necessary walking between classrooms and bus stops, in less than 15 minutes; and,

WHEREAS, students who do not get to class on time suffer consequences in lost learning time and possible penalties for tardiness; and,

WHEREAS, students who arrive late to class disrupt the learning experience of other students; and,

WHEREAS, the current short window between classes punishes students who take classes on the UTIA campus by making them late to class through no fault of their own, or forces them to avoid classes that might be more beneficial to them due to geography; and,

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate endorses the idea of more interdisciplinary work that allows undergraduate and graduate students to take advantage of the full range of our faculty's resources and curriculum offerings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UTK/UTIA Faculty Senate calls on the Calendar Committee and the Registrar to modify the 2020-2021 course schedule to include 20-minute intervals between classes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University add an express bus to transport students and faculty to and from high-density areas on the UTK-main campus and the UTIA campus.