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>Date: Mon, 15 Sep 2008 11:42:13 -0400
>From: "Kara Spencer" <REDACTED>
>Sender:<REDACTED>
>Subject: Changes to Academic Calendar
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>The Provost has proposed changes to the Academic Calendar and Fall Welcome schedule which are slated for final approval on September 23, 2008. Faculty, administrators, and students have voiced concerns regarding the process of the proposal. As concerned students we feel that adequate time has not been given to address the multitude of issues the proposed changes raise.
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>In discussions with members of the university community, we have discovered that many are unaware of the impending changes, or the likely repercussions, which will greatly affect both faculty and students alike.
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>The shortening of Fall Welcome may impact the organized activities of colleges and impede the acclimation of freshmen, international, and out-of-state students to the University.
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>The loss of instructional time due to shortening of the semester will create a burden for class schedules and syllabi that are already compressed and thereby compromise academic quality.
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>The proposed change of shortening finals week to Wednesday-Saturday evening raises a number of concerns: the implications of overlapping instructional days with finals week, the impact on those within the community who observe Saturday as a religious day, and the fact that even with the current schedule many students encounter multiple exams on a single day and narrowing the time frame will only increase this likelihood.
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>Delaying the start of classes until mid-week (Wednesday has been proposed) will not deter non-academic activities of students or provide a solution to the health and safety concerns cited by the Provost's office as the chief reason for the changes. Instead, it will extend the non-academic/welcome period for students living off-campus whose move-in will still occur a week prior to classes.
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>The inability of students to have adequate time to settle in prior to the start of classes will likely drive more students to opt for living off-campus,

undermining one of the main objectives of the University...increasing retention of students in on-campus housing.

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>We believe that an inclusive dialogue among members of the University community and a comprehensive evaluation of all available information are imperative before any proposal can be adopted. Such a review would require that the Provost's proposal not be implemented for the 2009-2010 academic year.

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>Given the immediacy of the situation, we request that any faculty wishing to be heard on this issue contact their

<<https://www.msu.edu/unit/acadgov/faculty/FacultyCouncil07-08.html>>Faculty Council representative or the Provost's office.

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>Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have additional questions or comments, or would like copies of the Provost's proposal, please contact us at

<REDACTED>

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>Kara Spencer

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