RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CALENDAR CHANGES

Regent/System Policy or State Statutes regulate academic calendars.

- Classes cannot begin until after September 1.
- The faculty and staff contractual period must be 39 weeks in length.
- There must be at least 34 weeks of organized services within an academic year (defined as classroom instruction, final exams, registration, and advising).
- A minimum of 150 days of classroom instruction (which includes final exams) or a University of Wisconsin System-approved alternative.
- Even-length semesters.

- Each semester would contain 14 full weeks (42 MWF and 28 TR) for classroom instruction.

- Winterim could be extended and become more flexible with the ability to offer courses or co-curricular experiences of one-week or two-week or three-week or four-week duration.
  - With an expanded timeframe, classes would not have to meet on Saturdays and in five of every seven years there would be at least 19 days for Winterim instruction.

- Representatives from Housing and Residence Life met with Executive committee on February 19, 2013 to express concerns regarding the start of the academic year calendar for first-year students.
  - First-year students move in on Thursday before Labor Day for Phase II Orientation held on Friday
    - Lack of scheduled activities, other than CubeFest, leaves students with a great deal of unstructured time over the Labor Day weekend to explore Water Street and learn about house parties; student misconduct can create unnecessary difficulties for students as they begin their college careers
  - Housing and Residence Life requests that classes begin on Wednesday following Labor Day, which would allow students to move into the residence halls starting on Sunday of Labor Day weekend.
    - Phase II Orientation for first-year students (and transfer students) would be held on the Tuesday after Labor Day

- Another issue that is frequently raised is Thanksgiving recess. Housing and Residence Life noted that a significant number of students have already left for home on Wednesday. Faculty and staff already cancel classes on Wednesday to accommodate travel for the holiday.
  - The Wednesday before Thanksgiving could become part of Thanksgiving recess