

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate
From: N. Heath, Acting Registrar
Subject: Spring Mid-Semester Break
Date: September 23, 1998

In the Spring semester, the Simon Fraser Student Society initiated discussions with the Dean's office about a reading break. SFSS held a referendum March 17-19, 1998, with the following questions:

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Results</u>
"Do you support the Simon Fraser Student Society proposal to the University for:	
A reading break in the middle of the Spring semester	654 votes
A reading break immediately before final exams in the Spring semester	247 votes
No reading break in the Spring semester	196 votes
Choose one	1,097 total votes

Reading breaks exist at many Canadian universities in the winter session.

At the request of SCAR, I have provided examples from other Canadian universities of the manner in which a Spring reading break is incorporated into their schedules. While only Guelph has a trimester system that is directly comparable to ours, most other Canadian universities offer large numbers of "half" courses which are similar to semestered courses. Universities with mixed full and half year course schedules (eg. Calgary) differ from a true trimester system (eg. SFU) in respect to the end of semester turnaround times for grades and academic standing, and in the status of the Summer semester/sessions.

Virtually all major Canadian universities include a reading break during the Spring term/semester, usually in mid-February.

The following motion was approved by SCAR for consideration by Senate:

"That Simon Fraser University schedule a mid-semester break in the Spring semester 1999 on February 15 and 16, 1999."



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

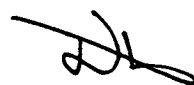
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Semester Break Examples

Spring 1999

University	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	# days of instruction
SFU (proposed)	4 classes start	15-16 break		1 classes end 2 & 5 Stat. hol. 6 - 17 Exams	3 classes start	62
SFU (existing)	4 classes start			1 classes end 2 & 5 Stat. hol. 6 - 17 Exams	3 classes start	64
Guelph	5 semester start 11 classes start	15-19 break		2 Stat. hol. 9 classes end 13-23 exams	5 semester start 11 classes start	64
McMaster	4 classes start	15-20 break		2 Stat. hol. 9 classes end 12-28 exams	3 classes start	64
Queens	5 classes start	16-20 break		2 Stat. hol. 3 classes end 4-10 study week 11-25 exams		60
Waterloo (Eng/Math)	5 classes start	16-17 break		2 Stat. hol. 3 classes end - 25 exams	4 classes start	61
Waterloo (other faculties)	5 classes start	16-20 break		2 Stat. hol. 7 classes end - 25 exams	4 classes start	59
Winnipeg	4 classes start	15-19 break		2 Stat. hol. 1 classes end 5-16 exams 26 classes start		58

University	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	# days of instruction
British Columbia	4 classes start	15-19 break		2 & 5 Stat. hol. 9 classes end 13-29 exams	3 classes start	62
Calgary	11 classes start	15 Stat. hol. 28 - Mar. 7 break		2 & 5 Stat. hol. 16 classes end 20-29 exams	13 classes start	63
Alberta	5 classes start	15 Stat. hol. 15-19 break		2 & 5 Stat. hol. 12 classes end 17-25 exams	10 classes start	64
Manitoba	4 classes start	15-19 break		2 Stat. hol 9 classes end 12-28 exams	3 classes start	64
McGill	4 classes start	22-26 break		2 and 5 Stat. hol 14 classes end 16-30 exams		66
Concordia	4 classes start	22-27 break		2 Stat. hol 12 classes end 13 make up day for Apr. 2 16-May 3 exams	6 classes start	65
New Brunswick (1998 dates)	5 classes start		2-6 break	9 classes end 10 & 13 Stat hol 16-30 exams	4 classes start	64
Western Ontario	4 classes start	22-26 break		1 hol (Passover) 2 Stat. hol. 8 classes end 10-29 exams	3 some classes start 10 classes start	63