



# Associated Students of the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI

## **RE: Instituting a System-Wide Election Day Holiday**

Members of the Intercampus Faculty Cabinet,

In an effort started to increase voter turnout among students and decrease barriers in student access to the polls, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri is proposing to amend our Collected Rules and Regulations to declare state recognized Election Days as defined in the Revised Statutes of Missouri 115.21 as UM System Holidays under CRR 20.140.

In the fall of 2020, ASUM Mizzou worked successfully alongside student organizations and MU Faculty Council to implement a lenient attendance policy for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Presidential Election as a stopgap until a more sustainable, long-term solution could be adopted. It is our belief that the proposed amendments will place an emphasis on civic engagement and participation that will serve to further the UM System's mission to "advance the opportunities for success and well-being for Missouri, our nation and the world through *transformative teaching, research, innovation, engagement and inclusion*" by recognizing the supreme importance of mass participation in federal, state, and local elections in upholding the values and integrity of our representative democracy.

As this amendment would affect the academic calendar, faculty guidance and support are of paramount importance. In the following pages I have included ASUM's proposed amendment language, including tracked changes. I look forward hearing the Cabinet's feedback.

If you have any additional questions, concerns, or suggestions, please email me at [bem2c4@umsystem.edu](mailto:bem2c4@umsystem.edu)

Thank you for your time!

### **Bailey Martin**

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# Associated Students of the UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI

## 20.140 Academic Calendar

Bd. Min. 4/8/05; Revised 10/23/09; Revised 6/17/11; Revised 7/22/11.

A. The academic calendar will conform to the following timetable:

1. The fall semester will begin the first Monday after August 18.
2. The spring semester will begin on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day for UM-Columbia, UM-Kansas City, UM-St. Louis and Missouri University of Science and Technology.
3. There will be no classes during the week of Thanksgiving.
4. Spring break will be the week containing the last Wednesday in March.
5. The last day of class, study day schedules, and final exam schedules will be set by each campus. Each campus should set the last day of class to allow for at least 43 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes for each class scheduled to meet on those days of the week, and 29 Tuesday and Thursday classes for classes scheduled to meet on those days.
6. The campus will set the dates for commencement, the schedules for intersession, the various schedules for the summer semester, the dates for any off-schedule course meetings, and the schedules for professional schools.
7. There will be no classes held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November on even-numbered years in observance of the general election, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August of even-numbered years in observance of the primary election, nor the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April each year in observance of the general municipal election day.

B. Any variations to the above academic calendar must be recommended by the faculty and Chancellor of the campus, recommended by the President, and approved by the Board of Curators.