A SENSE OF THE BOARD REGARDING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR AY16

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan is in the process of defining the academic calendar for the 2015 – 2016 academic year; AND

WHEREAS, Labor Day falls on September 7, 2015; AND

WHEREAS, Public schools in the state of Michigan cannot start their academic year until after Labor Day; AND

WHEREAS, the university traditionally provides two days off from classes in mid-October for a Fall Break and two days off from classes in late November for a Thanksgiving holiday recess; AND

WHEREAS, the University’s academic semester span 15 weeks, 14 of instruction and 1 of final examinations¹; AND

WHEREAS, the University’s academic calendar includes one weekday study day which separates the period of instruction from the final exam week; AND

WHEREAS, using the traditional model, the final day of final exams for the 2015 – 2016 academic year will fall on December 23, 2015; AND

WHEREAS, many domestic and international graduate students travel to be with family and friends for the final weeks of the calendar year²; AND

WHEREAS, Vice Provost and Rackham Dean Janet Weiss has asked for input on the proposed calendar; NOW THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND ARTICULATED BY ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, IT IS THE SENSE OF THE BOARD THAT IN THEIR NAME, THE FOLLOWING BE

RESOLVED, that the University should shorten Fall Break by one day, thus moving the end of the Fall semester to December 22nd, and that the intersession between

¹ http://ro.umich.edu/calendar
² Conversations with Rackham Students
the fall and winter semesters be extended by one day; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

28 RESOLVED, that the University should eliminate the Fall Break, extend the Thanksgiving Recess to include Wednesday November 25, 2015 thus moving the end of the Fall semester to December 22nd, and that the intersession between the Fall and Winter semesters be extended by one day; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

32 RESOLVED, that the University is encouraged to form a committee comprising of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff members to review the academic calendar and to make recommendations as to its future modification; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

36 RESOLVED, that the university should explore the ramifications of starting its academic year prior to the Labor Day holiday.

**AUTHORS**

Matthew Filter  
Representative, Division 3  
Chris Tom  
Representative, Division 1  
Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee

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Matthew Filter  
Representative, Division 3  
______________________________  
Chris Tom  
Representative, Division 1  
______________________________  
Ryne Peterson  
Representative, Division 3

**ATTEST**

By Signing below, I certify the this resolution was dispatched by the RSG Board under the rules as prescribed in section IX of the bylaws and that the vote count appearing at the top of this resolution is accurate.

____________________________________
Kaitlin Flynn  
Vice President, Rackham Student Government

**PRESIDENTIAL ACTION**

I, Michael Benson, President of the Rackham Student Body, do hereby approve / veto this resolution on this the ________ day of ______, 2012.

____________________________________
Michael L. Benson  
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body