

Academic Calendar Review Referendum Results

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Introduction

Seattle University's strategic plan, *A Jesuit University of Distinction for a Time of Change: Strategic Directions 2020-2025*, called the university to, "...determine whether to move to a semester system." As part of the review process leading up to this decision the university has conducted an advisory referendum vote via online survey asking all faculty and staff to share their beliefs on which calendar model, quarter or semester, is best for Seattle University.

This advisory referendum was jointly called for by the Provost and Academic Assembly prior to the formation of the Academic Calendar Review (ACR) working group, which then became the designated sponsor for the referendum. ACR subsequently formed a Referendum Planning group, comprised of representatives from ACR, ACR co-chairs, Academic Assembly and Staff Council leadership, and Institutional Research representatives. This group designed the referendum, taking into account feedback received from faculty and staff, including those with survey and quantitative analysis expertise.

The referendum was opened April 7th, with all eligible faculty and staff receiving an email invitation to participate and a unique link to the survey allowing only one response per recipient. Two follow up reminders for those who had not yet submitted the survey were sent on April 13th and April 16th, and the survey closed at 11:59PM on the 16th. When respondents submitted the survey, the response was stored separate from any identifying information.

As communicated in the referendum guide, the results of this referendum are being made available via this report to all faculty and staff. This report does not interpret the patterns of response, but simply reports out the results in enough detail to support data informed consideration of the views of faculty and staff. Potential respondents were promised that their confidentiality would be protected by not distributing results for sub-populations where fewer than ten responses were received, and this report follows that standard. The raw data file will not be distributed or accessible to anyone outside of the Office of Institutional Research.

The tables below report the responses received in the referendum both overall and by various sub-populations. The first section focused on the central question of the referendum, which calendar model respondents indicated they believe is the best choice for Seattle University.

The final section provides numbers on the relative support between a 3 credit and a 4 credit semester model based on the sum of those indicating they believe the university should only switch to a 3 credit or a 4 credit semester system with the follow up questions on preference between semester models asked of those who believe the university should remain on a quarter system and those who indicated they believe the university should switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester model. In reading these results it is important to note that they are not intended to measure nor should they be read as providing information about the support for semesters vs. quarters.

The referendum survey full text is included as a reference following the reporting of results.

Response Rates

Overall Response Rates

Primary Position	Eligible Respondents	Responses Submitted	Response Rate %	Notes
Faculty	1,239	489	39%	
Staff	743	382	51%	
Unknown	N/A	3	N/A	Responses suppressed
Total	1,982	874	44%	

Response Rates by Faculty Contract Status

Faculty Contract Status	Eligible Respondents	Total Responses	Response Rate %	Notes
Tenured/Tenure-Track	332	282	85%	
Non-Tenure Track/Term	202	140	69%	
Adjunct	648	56	9%	
Library Faculty	17	9	53%	Responses suppressed
Other Faculty	40	N/A	N/A	
No Response	N/A	2	N/A	Responses suppressed
Grand Total	1,239	489	39%	

Responses by Primary Faculty Contracting School

Primary Faculty Contracting School	Total Responses	Notes
Albers School of Business and Economics	73	
College of Arts and Sciences	203	
College of Education	22	
College of Nursing	42	
College of Science and Engineering	104	
Lemieux Library	10	
School of Law	27	
School of New and Continuing Studies	3	Responses suppressed
School of Theology and Ministry	4	Responses suppressed
No Response	1	Responses suppressed
Grand Total	489	

Responses by Staff Employment Category

Staff Employment Category	Total Responses	Notes
Exempt	255	
Non-exempt/hourly	117	
Union contracted	5	Responses suppressed
No Response	5	Responses suppressed
Grand Total	382	

Responses by Staff Focus Area

Staff Focus Area	Total Responses	Notes
Academic Focus	128	
Structural Focus	110	
Student Focus	127	
Unknown	5	Responses suppressed
No Response	12	
Grand Total	382	

Calendar Recommendations

Calendar Recommendation Results: Overall Responses

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Total	
	#	%
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	463	53%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	308	35%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	64	7%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	39	4%

Calendar Recommendation Results by Primary Position

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Faculty		Staff		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	341	70%	119	31%	460	53%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	109	22%	199	52%	308	35%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	19	4%	45	12%	64	7%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	20	4%	19	5%	39	4%

*Unknown primary position excluded due to suppression rule

Calendar Recommendation Results by Faculty Group

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	202	72%	99	71%	39	70%	340	71%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	57	20%	31	22%	12	21%	100	21%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	8	3%	7	5%	4	7%	19	4%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	15	5%	3	2%	1	2%	19	4%

*Library Faculty excluded due to suppression rule

*No response excluded due to suppression rule

Calendar Recommendation Results by Faculty Group and School and College

	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Albers School of Business and Economics								
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	35	78%	12	75%	9	75%	56	77%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	6	13%	4	25%	3	25%	13	18%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	2	4%		0%		0%	2	3%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	2	4%		0%		0%	2	3%

	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Arts and Sciences								
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	97	80%	45	82%	20	77%	162	80%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	13	11%	8	15%	3	12%	24	12%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	2	2%	1	2%	3	12%	6	3%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	10	8%	1	2%		0%	11	5%

	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Education								
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	6	60%	Excluded due to suppression rule				10	45%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	3	30%					8	36%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.		0%					3	14%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	1	10%					1	5%

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Nursing								
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	7	35%	7	50%	Excluded due to suppression rule			
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	10	50%	4	29%				
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	2	10%	1	7%				
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	1	5%	2	14%				

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Science and Engineering								
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	57	84%	29	91%	Excluded due to suppression rule			
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	8	12%	2	6%				
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	2	3%	1	3%				
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	1	1%		0%				

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
School of Law								
A. ...remain on a quarter system.		0%	Excluded due to suppression rule				2	8%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	16	100%					21	84%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.		0%					1	4%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.		0%					1	4%
*Library Faculty excluded due to suppression rule								

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Lemieux Library								
Excluded due to suppression rule								
School of New and Continuing Studies								
Excluded due to suppression rule								
School of Theology and Ministry								
Excluded due to suppression rule								
No School Response								
Excluded due to suppression rule								

Calendar Recommendation Results by Staff Employment Category

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	59	23%	56	48%	115	31%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	149	58%	44	38%	193	52%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	38	15%	7	6%	45	12%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	9	4%	10	9%	19	5%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

Calendar Recommendation Results by Staff Focus Area

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Academic Focus		Structural Focus		Student Focus		No Response		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	51	40%	28	25%	36	28%	4	33%	119	32%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	54	42%	69	63%	67	53%	5	42%	195	52%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	17	13%	9	8%	17	13%	1	8%	44	12%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	6	5%	4	4%	7	6%	2	17%	19	5%
*Unknown focus area excluded due to suppression rule										

Calendar Recommendation Results by Staff Employment Category and Focus Area

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Academic Focus						
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	24	31%	26	53%	50	39%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	37	47%	17	35%	54	43%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	14	18%	3	6%	17	13%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	3	4%	3	6%	6	5%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Structural Focus						
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	12	15%	14	56%	26	25%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	58	72%	9	36%	67	63%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	8	10%	1	4%	9	8%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	3	4%	1	4%	4	4%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Student Focus						
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	22	25%	14	39%	36	29%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	48	55%	15	42%	63	51%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	14	16%	3	8%	17	14%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.	3	3%	4	11%	7	6%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Response to Staff Focus Area						
A. ...remain on a quarter system.	1	20%	2	33%	3	27%
B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.	3	60%	2	33%	5	45%
C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.	1	20%		0%	1	9%
D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.		0%	2	33%	2	18%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

I believe that the best choice for SU is to ...	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unknown Focus Area Position Response						
Excluded due to suppression rule						

Semester Calendar Preferences

Semester Calendar Preference: Overall Responses

Semester Calendar Preference	#	%
3 credit	224	26%
4 credit	282	32%
No preference	333	38%
No Response	35	4%

Semester Calendar Preference by Primary Position

Semester Calendar Preference	Faculty		Staff		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
3 credit	118	24%	106	28%	224	26%
4 credit	203	42%	78	20%	281	32%
No preference	140	29%	191	50%	331	38%
No Response	28	6%	7	2%	35	4%

*Unknown primary position excluded due to suppression rule

Semester Calendar Preference by Faculty Group

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3 credit	67	24%	34	24%	16	29%	117	24%
4 credit	134	48%	54	39%	13	23%	201	42%
No preference	65	23%	41	29%	26	46%	132	28%
No Response	16	6%	11	8%	1	2%	28	6%

*Library Faculty excluded due to suppression rule

*No response excluded due to suppression rule

Semester Calendar Preference by Faculty Group and School and College

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Albers School of Business and Economics								
3 credit	13	29%	6	38%	2	17%	21	29%
4 credit	22	49%	8	50%	3	25%	33	45%
No preference	8	18%	2	13%	7	58%	17	23%
No Response	2	4%		0%		0%	2	3%

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Arts and Sciences								
3 credit	20	16%	8	15%	9	35%	37	18%
4 credit	72	59%	25	45%	7	27%	104	51%
No preference	19	16%	17	31%	10	38%	46	23%
No Response	11	9%	5	9%		0%	16	8%

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Education								
3 credit	4	40%	Excluded due to suppression rule				13	59%
4 credit	4	40%					5	23%
No preference	2	20%					4	18%
No Response		0%						0%

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Nursing								
3 credit	6	30%	6	43%	Excluded due to suppression rule			
4 credit	9	45%	4	29%				
No preference	5	25%	3	21%				
No Response		0%	1	7%				

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
College of Science and Engineering								
3 credit	21	31%	4	13%	Excluded due to suppression rule			
4 credit	26	38%	13	41%				
No preference	18	26%	11	34%				
No Response	3	4%	4	13%				

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
School of Law								
3 credit	3	19%	Excluded due to suppression rule				4	16%
4 credit		0%					2	8%
No preference	13	81%					18	72%
No Response		0%					1	4%
*Library Faculty excluded due to suppression rule								

Semester Calendar Preference	Tenured/Tenure-Track		Non-Tenure Track/Term		Adjunct		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Lemieux Library								
Excluded due to suppression rule								
School of New and Continuing Studies								
Excluded due to suppression rule								
School of Theology and Ministry								
Excluded due to suppression rule								

Semester Calendar Preference by Staff Employment Category

Semester Calendar Preference	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
3 credit	77	30%	27	23%	104	28%
4 credit	51	20%	25	21%	76	20%
No preference	126	49%	60	51%	186	50%
No Response	1	0%	5	4%	6	2%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

Semester Calendar Preference by Staff Focus Area

Semester Calendar Preference	Academic Focus		Structural Focus		Student Focus		No Response		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3 credit	37	29%	28	25%	35	28%	5	42%	105	28%
4 credit	36	28%	21	19%	18	14%	2	17%	77	20%
No preference	53	41%	60	55%	72	57%	3	25%	188	50%
No Response	2	2%	1	1%	2	2%	2	17%	7	2%
*Unknown focus area excluded due to suppression rule										

Semester Calendar Preference by Staff Employment Category and Focus Area

Semester Calendar Preference	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Academic Focus						
3 credit	28	36%	9	18%	37	29%
4 credit	22	28%	14	29%	36	28%
No preference	28	36%	24	49%	52	41%
No Response		0%	2	4%	2	2%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

Semester Calendar Preference	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Structural Focus						
3 credit	22	27%	6	24%	28	26%
4 credit	17	21%	2	8%	19	18%
No preference	42	52%	16	64%	58	55%
No Response		0%	1	4%	1	1%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

Semester Calendar Preference	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Student Focus						
3 credit	24	28%	9	25%	33	27%
4 credit	11	13%	7	19%	18	15%
No preference	51	59%	19	53%	70	57%
No Response	1	1%	1	3%	2	2%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

Semester Calendar Preference	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Response to Staff Focus Area						
3 credit	2	40%	3	50%	5	45%
4 credit		0%	2	33%	2	18%
No preference	3	60%		0%	3	27%
No Response		0%	1	17%	1	9%
*Union contracted excluded due to suppression rule						
*No response to employment category excluded due to suppression rule						

Semester Calendar Preference	Exempt		Non-exempt/hourly		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Unknown Primary Position Response						
Excluded due to suppression rule						

Appendix 1 Academic Calendar Referendum Survey

This survey will be open April 7th and will close April 16th at 11:59pm PDT.

A 2-page overview of the three academic calendar models on this referendum and their impacts on student educational experience is provided on [pages 12-13 of the "ACR Synthesis & FAQ" document](#). For more information on the calendar options, please visit the ACR website, and particularly [Phase 3 page](#). We encourage all participants to be as informed as possible.

You may exit this survey and return to it any time before submitting your responses and prior to its closing date April 16 11:59pm PDT.

Please use the [Strategic Planning Contact Us form](#) if you have any questions regarding this survey.

Thank you,
Academic Calendar Review

What is your primary position at the University? Pick one.

- Faculty
- Staff

How are you contracted in your primary faculty position? Pick one.

- Tenured/Tenure-Track
- Non-Tenure Track/Term
- Adjunct
- Library Faculty

In what school is your primary faculty appointment? Pick one.

- Albers School of Business and Economics
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Education
- College of Nursing

- College of Science and Engineering
- School of Law
- School of New and Continuing Studies
- School of Theology and Ministry
- Lemieux Library

What is your employment category? Pick one.

- Non-exempt/hourly
- Exempt
- Union contracted

Which staff focus area does your office or department belong to? Pick one.

- Academic Focus (Colleges and Schools, Career Engagement, CCE, CEJS, CFD, CJE, Disability Services, Education Abroad, Office of Fellowships, Learning Assistance, Lemieux Library; Office of the Provost, Research Services and Sponsored Projects, Student Academic Services, University Core, and School of Law)
- Student Focus (Alumni Engagement, Athletics, Campus Ministry, CAPS, Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate Admissions, HRL, International Student Center, Leadership and Innovation, Magis, Multicultural Affairs, OIE, Parent & Family Engagement, Public Safety and Transportation, Student Financial Services, Office of Student Development, Student Health Center, Summer School, Undergraduate Admissions, UREC, and Wellness & Health Promotion)
- Structural Focus (Advancement, Application Services, Arrupe House, Buildings and Grounds Services, CES, Controller's Office, Design and Construction, Development, Office of the Executive VP, Environment of CARE, Facilities Administration, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Mailing services, Managed Print Services, Marketing Communications, Office of the President, Operations and Maintenance, Planning, Procurement, Reprographic Services and Copyright, SUperCopy, University Budget Office, and University Counsel)
- Unknown

Required Question: Which of the following statements best reflects your belief about which calendar system is best for SU? Please choose one. I believe that the best choice for SU is to...

Even if you choose A or B, you'll still get a chance to state whether, if SU were to move to a semester calendar, you prefer a 3 or 4 credit semester system or whether you do not have a preference.

- A. ...remain on a quarter system.
- B. ...switch to either a 3 or 4 credit semester system.
- C. ...switch only to a 3 credit semester system.
- D. ...switch only to a 4 credit semester system.

Optional: Your preference for quarters will be counted in the overall tally. However, if it was decided the University were to move to a semester calendar, we would like to know if you prefer one model over the other at this time. Which of the following best reflects your preference?

- 3 credit
- 4 credit
- No preference

Optional: Your preference for semesters will be counted in the overall tally. We understand you prefer to move to a semester model of either 3 or 4 credit. However, if you have any preference at this time, we want to know. Which of the following best reflects your preference?

- 3 credit
- 4 credit
- No preference

Please select "Submit Survey" to finalize your responses.

Once the survey is submitted, you will not be able to make additional changes to your responses.