



ACADEMIC PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 9, 2026

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Virtual – ZOOM

1. Attendance:

- a. Members: Kim Dunn (Chair), Stacie Rossow, Meredith Mountford, Zhijun Yin, Sharon Darling, Christopher Beetle, and Ken Dawson-Scully
- b. Guest(s): Marie Claire DeMassi, Maria Jennings, Salwa Warsi

2. Call to order at 3:30 PM by Chair, Dr. Kim Dunn

3. Approval of the APBC Minutes from [November 10, 2025](#), meeting.

4. Calendar – Tentative

- [26-27](#) and proposed [27-28](#) Academic Calendars
- [Academic Calendar Overview](#)
- [Class Minutes 2026-2027 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Class Minutes 2027-2028 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Summer 2026](#)
- The committee reviewed the proposed AY 2026–2027 academic calendar, including the replacement of Yom Kippur with Fall Break, and discussed the resulting impact on instructional minutes, particularly for Monday-based courses.
 - **Motion:** a motion was made to reduce reading days from three to two and designate the Monday prior to reading days as an instructional day for Fall 2026 and Fall 2027. **Motion carries.**
 - Following this adjustment, a motion was made. **Motion:** A motion was made to forward the revised AY 2026–2027 academic calendar to Steering with a positive recommendation. **Motion carries.**
- The committee held a broader discussion regarding uneven instructional minutes across course meeting patterns (e.g., M/W/F vs. T/Th). While members expressed interest in exploring long-term solutions, no action was taken for the current calendar cycles. The committee agreed this topic may be revisited for a future academic year (potentially AY 2028–2029).

- Concerns were raised about final exams being administered prior to reading days, particularly given that final exam periods are counted as instructional time. The need for a reminder on final exam scheduling policies was noted.
- The committee then reviewed the Summer 2026 academic calendar, including a one-time request to extend the July 4 holiday in recognition of the U.S. semiquincentennial.
 - **Motion:** A motion was made and approved to forward the Summer 2026 academic calendar to Steering with a positive recommendation. **Motion carries.**

5. SPOTs

- The committee discussed SPOT, focusing on low response rates, response window length, question structure, and variability in how SPOT results are used across academic units, including the weighting of SPOT data in annual evaluations, PTR, and P&T processes. Members raised concerns regarding equity and potential bias in SPOT results, particularly for instructors from underrepresented groups, as well as the impact of low response rate thresholds on evaluation outcomes.
- The committee noted challenges related to SPOT timing, especially for shorter academic terms where SPOT administration may overlap with final projects or the final week of instruction. It was noted that Dr. Dan Meeroff, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, had previously agreed to examine SPOT data, including potential bias, and a member will follow up with him and coordinate with OIT as needed, with the expectation that findings will be reported at a future meeting.
- It was agreed that SPOT dates must be approved by mid-semester, and that a dedicated SPOT discussion, including dates and policy considerations, will be scheduled for the next meeting.

6. Other

- Provost Dawson-Scully provided an initial overview of the university's budget process, noting that he is early in his tenure and continuing to meet with units to gain a comprehensive understanding of current funding structures. He explained that the upcoming budget cycle will follow the existing budget construction process, consistent with prior years.
- He shared that during this cycle, the university will shadow the new budget model in parallel with the current model, effectively using this year as a beta or testing period. The current budget model will continue to operate the university, while the new model is analyzed and refined. Full implementation of the new budget model is anticipated in the following budget cycle, after sufficient review and adjustment.
- He also noted that he expects to be able to provide more detailed information as the process progresses and welcomed future discussion.

7. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.