BC Winter Intersession Task Force

Academic Senate Comments, Concerns, and Questions

General Pros and Cons

* Benefit part-time student who can take courses year-round
* Benefit students on a fast track to degree completion
* High-Unit majors may be able to complete requirements more quickly
* Transfer students may be able to complete goals more quickly
* More potential for noncredit courses to prepare students and support students between semesters
* Rushed decision (prior to Task Force)
* Lack of daycare for students with children
* Historically, BC moved to 16-week calendar to start after school started
* Chair Compensation for scheduling winter intersession
* 1 week is insufficient time to roll grades for departments that offer courses year round
  + Feasible offerings for courses with prerequisites would continue to be limited
  + Students failing courses will have limited time to re-enroll in the course especially with impacted courses being full by the time they can register
* Impact on Classified Staff without their input (prior to Task Force)
* Not received well by other campuses
* Faculty burnout from teaching all year
* Extra work for scheduling, admissions and records, and other classified
* Similar to a quarter system which many institutions are moving away from
* Misalignment with TK-12 calendars making scheduling for students with parents unfeasible and lower overall enrollments/FTES

Data Requests

* Pilot program
* Evidence of bottlenecks and specifically address them
* Data to support the need for a Winter Intersession that changed the entire calendar
* CCA and CSEA unions be in negotiations every step
* success/completion/retention data for 8-week course currently offered
* 6-week, 5-week, 4-week, 8-week success/completion/retention data for various types of courses, including STEM and those with labs
* success/completion/retention data from other colleges with winter intersession
* SGA survey
* List of options has Biology tried, including their previous pilot of winter intersession
* All faculty survey
* Focus efforts on recruiting and hiring Biology/STEM faculty

Department/Program Specific Concerns and Questions

* Inmate Scholars Program, MOUs need may need to be addressed to change dates
* Early College, recruitment period may be lost depending on the calendar change and decrease in completion rates, calendar may misaligned depending on the option selected
* Rural: building utilization may not be available, timing of harvest seasons in the late summer/early fall
* STEM: too ‘heavy’ for students to succeed in short period with Holidays
* Counseling/Library/Success Center(s): workload will be impacted and will need time to negotiate and plan
* ENGL B1A: Many students struggle during 16-week semester. Will the intersession benefit them? How?
* Smaller Departments/Programs: Rely on adjuncts and will not have adequate staffing
* Athletics: interfere with season/games
* Library: would have to rely on Adjuncts during intersession, orientations likely not available, classified staff and unpaid days off a year do not align
* Nursing: courses will need a curriculum revision and board approval to offer VN or RN courses during an intersession
* Music: orchestra and choir performances and fundraising will be negatively impacted if the fall semester ends early, starting fall/spring semester later may not allow for competition and festival participation, performance seasons may be cut short

General Questions

* Are there bottlenecks beyond Biology? With new labs and campuses, can that bottleneck be addressed?
* What resources/support services will be available to students?
* Will Ad Astro help solve scheduling issues and bottlenecks without the intersession?
* Could Biology increase their courses size?
* Will teaching winter intersession courses be voluntarily and are there faculty willing to teach courses?
* How long does the Union anticipate it will take to negotiate workload issues surrounding a Winter Intersession? The answer can inform the “when” in implementation.
* How many classes/units would a student be eligible to take? If it is one class, will that be worthwhile?
* What is the anticipated student demand?
* Is there any discussion about aligning with CSUB winter intersession?
* Should the focus be on recruiting and hiring Biology/STEM faculty instead?