

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN****OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT****Enrolment Services****Senate and Curriculum Services**

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<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/senate>**13 February 2008**

**Memo to:** Okanagan Senate

**From:** Learning and Research Committee

**RE:** Term 1 Midterm Break (approval)

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Senators will recall that, for the past several academic years, UBC Okanagan has scheduled a one-day midterm break in Term 1 falling in close proximity to the Remembrance Day statutory holiday or day-in-lieu.

The Learning and Research Committee discussed whether continuing the midterm break in Term 1 was reasonable for the 2008/2009 Academic Year and beyond. Senators should note that, unlike Term 2, the number of teaching days in Term 1 is bounded at both ends by Labour Day at the beginning, and Christmas at the end. Given this term-length limitation in Term 1, the Committee feels that it is not desirable to schedule a midterm break in Term 1.

The Committee determined that the goal of this decision would be to equalize the number of teaching days in term 1 and term 2, where possible. For the 2008-2009 Academic Years for example discontinuing the November midterm break would allow for 62 teaching days in Term 1 and 63 teaching days in Term 2.

Before making this recommendation to the Senate, the Committee invited submissions about the Term 1 midterm break from the campus community. In those submissions, faculty and students who were in support of maintaining the break indicated that they very much appreciated the break at a very busy time in the academic term. The Committee appreciates the value of the break, but on balance still recommends that the day would be better spent as a teaching day because of the limitations around Term 1.

The Committee therefore recommends as follows:

*That the Term 1 Midterm Break in November be discontinued beginning with the 2008/2009 Academic Year and beyond.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Peter Arthur  
Chair, Okanagan Senate Learning and Research Committee