

Term Dates Motion

UBU Motion to restate objections to revised term dates This Union Notes:

- 1.The changes in term dates since last year. Instead of 4 weeks Spring break, we are now given 2 weeks in which to undertake assignments, employment and rest before the summer exams. At Winter Break, we have also lost a week during vital revision time for winter exams.
- 2.That the '3rd term' has effectively disappeared, replaced by a period of revision and assessment during which few extra-curricula activities can take place. This means very little can happen between the end of March and the end of September, a full six months of the year.
- 3.That key student events have been adversely affected. For instance, NUS conference and several key BUSA events no longer fall during the vacation.
- 4.The changes are making it very difficult for summer sports teams. For instance, the Cricket season now begins during exams and ends well after term finishes, threatening the future of this sport at Bradford. Our Chancellor is a former cricket international.
- 5.That the Bradford Basketball Tournament, which is hosted by the Union and Basketball Club, now falls during exams, reducing the numbers of volunteers available to assist in running the tournament.
- 6.That, due to the length of the summer vacation, International Students are now no longer entitled to remain in the country between years of their course, meaning they must return to their home country and apply for a fresh student visa.
- 7.That Student Parents no longer have time during the Spring Break when children are still at school. Having two weeks of vacation that fell outside of student holidays was very helpful to Student Parents who needed this time for study.
- 8.That we have a new vice-chancellor arriving in May, and that this presents new opportunities for lobbying.

This Union Believes:

- 1.That the current system of term dates does not provide sufficient time for study, and that in particular the second semester is now very fragmented.
- 2.That students are still very concerned about the issue, and that almost every prediction made a year ago concerning the two week spring break is being fulfilled.
- 3.That it is now proven that 2 weeks is not long enough for a spring break. At the bare minimum, one more week of spring break is required, however this shouldn't stop us pushing for a return to 4 week breaks in both Winter and Spring.
- 4.As term is now over before summer arrives, student's impressions of Bradford will be negatively affected, because even more of their experience of Bradford will be during the darker months with the traditional Bradford bad weather.
- 5.That options should be considered that move the start of term to later in October, thus pushing the end of the year into June (where it was originally).

This Union Resolves:

- 1.To reaffirm our commitment to the principle of restoring the old term dates.
- 2.To make one more week of spring break our minimum bargaining position.
- 3.To support the current petition being circulated amongst students calling on the new Vice Chancellor to reconsider the current lengths of winter and spring breaks.
- 4.To arrange a meeting with the new Vice Chancellor at his earliest convenience at which term dates are top of the agenda.
- 5.To ensure that this continues to be a priority among academic issues during the 2007-8 academic year.

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