



5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7800

619.594.6555
fax 619.594.6092
as.sdsu.edu

December 4, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Adela de la Torre
FROM: Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Spring Break Decision

In light of the University Senate's vote against the proposed spring break cancellation on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, and then the narrow passing of the second proposal on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, against the vote and voice of students, Associated Students, speaking on behalf of the significant opinions of students, requests that spring break remains in place for Spring 2021 for the following reasons:

It is after careful deliberation and overwhelming support from over 10,000 students that we respectfully express opposition to the spring break proposal presented at University Senate on 12/1/20; a proposal that was passed with a 55% (44-28-7) majority vote after the meeting was interrupted. The proposal would further deteriorate the mental health of both students and faculty. During an unprecedented year full of financial instability, civil unrest, and increased stress and anxiety, it is problematic that a proposal would be passed that clearly jeopardizes the overall well-being of our student body. Earlier this week, Sacramento State University's Academic Senate voted 54 to 1 in favor of keeping spring break. This decision was made to ensure that the mental health of students was not overburdened by increased workloads without a substantial break over the course of the semester. The SDSU administration has undermined the student voice in the shared governance process. This directly ignored the opinions of students, faculty, and staff that make up this university. While we understand the growing pressure that our university has received from the County of San Diego, this policy change in the calendar unfairly punishes the student body for the spike in COVID cases throughout this semester and is unjustifiable. A traditional spring break with proper COVID protocols addresses the concerns of public health and mental health.

The weeklong spring break is vital to student recovery because of the consistent window of opportunity to heal from the high stress and pressure of a semester filled with adversity.

The various damage from this semester includes, but is not limited to: financial instability, declining mental health, technological challenges, computer exhaustion, and civil unrest. On multiple occasions, faculty and students spoke on the issues that would occur as a result of



5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7800

619.594.6555
fax 619.594.6092
as.sdsu.edu

ending spring break, some of which include: faculty members not being able to care for their children, students not being able to care for their mental health, and the economic impact that would disproportionately hurt low income students. Students often use this time to pick up extra work hours for more income, to complete assignments in preparation for finals, and to relax from an intensive semester. We respectfully submit to you our collective voice on behalf of the student body.

We, the Associated Students, speaking on behalf of students, urge President Adela de la Torre to:

- Take executive action and reinstate the full spring break -- reversing the University Senate's decision to replace the traditional spring break with four (4) scattered "Rest and Recovery" Days.
- If spring break is retained as requested, students should be encouraged not to travel and if students decide to travel they should seek testing before and after the break.
- Take a two-week pause on in-person instruction as well as continue the Surveillance Testing Model for the "In-Person" campus population upon return from spring break.
- Ensure that Faculty/Staff do not have due dates on the day before, the day of, and the day after "Rest and Recovery Days" to guarantee their claimed intentionality.
- Require faculty to not schedule study sessions, classes, additional time, etc. during real break times.
- Appropriately implement opportunities and accommodations for students registered with the Student Ability Success Center (SASC).
- Implement accommodations for students living in other time zones, including international students.