**Report – Calendar Committee, 2015-16 Calendar**

**Highlights**

* Each semester has 70 class days (14 for each day of the week) and the first and second summer sessions have 21 class days. This means that three credit hour courses meet for 42 hours of class time.
* This calendar follows the pattern begun in 2009 of having a three-day period between the end of spring final exams and graduation in order to have fewer days with graduating seniors on campus with nothing to do.
* As in the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 calendars, the spring semester starts on the Friday before MLK Day so that there is one reading day in the spring semester. This reading day is a priority of SMU students, last year’s Student Body President, and this year’s SBP. They have both served as student representatives on the Calendar Committee. The challenge of scheduling spring reading days began when the period between the end of final exams and graduation was reduced to three days. The introduction of the January term at SMU-in-Plano combined with the existing Taos May term add further constraints.
* Taos has added a J Term and Mini-June Term beginning with 2014. Therefore, these items are reflected in the 2015-2016 calendar.
* Dates for fall break and an alternative fall break have been approved by the Calendar Committee. The Registrar asked the calendar committee to consider some flexibility with regards to fall break so that if possible it would not occur at the same time as a home football game.
* When the Texas legislature adopted the fourth Monday of August as the start of the public school calendar, most local school districts began having spring break at the same time. With this in mind, the week of spring break may be moved one week forward or backward by the Registrar to match with the spring break of local school districts. This change must be made prior to the calendar being published.