

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

S15-9, University Policy, Scheduling of Thanksgiving Holiday

Legislative History:

Effective: AY 2016-2017

At its meeting of April 27, 2015, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Sabalius for the Executive Committee. The current Thanksgiving holiday class schedule only cancels classes that meet after 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. However, class attendance at any time on that Wednesday before Thanksgiving is very low in part because students are traveling home for the holiday. Also, ticket prices are very high and tickets are hard to get the evening prior to Thanksgiving. Therefore, this policy makes the Wednesday before Thanksgiving a non-instructional day.

Action by University President: **Approved and signed by
President Mohammad Qayoumi
on May 22, 2015.**

**University Policy
Scheduling of Thanksgiving Holiday**

- Whereas** the current Thanksgiving holiday arrangement at San José State University may be too brief to effectively combine family events, term paper and final preparation, and sometimes job opportunities; and
- Whereas** holiday travel peaks on the afternoon and evening before Thanksgiving Day, which results in high ticket prices or extremely difficult travel arrangements (see *Spartan Daily* article Dec. 1, 2014: <http://spartandaily.com/129048/holiday-travel-prices-students>); and
- Whereas** classes that meet on Wednesday before Thanksgiving frequently have a markedly low attendance; and
- Whereas** the current cancelation of Wednesday classes that meet after 5 p.m. results in a difference of instructional days for classes that meet on Wednesday; and

Whereas a shift of one day in the academic calendar can be easily achieved; therefore, be it

Resolved that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving shall be a non-instructional day in the academic calendar at San José State University starting with the academic year 2016/17.

Approved: March 26, 2015

Vote (electronic): 9-1-2

Financial Impact: None or negligible

Workload Impact: A slight increase. So far, classes on Wednesday before Thanksgiving that start after 5 p.m. were cancelled without substitution. Under the new policy, there will be another instructional day in lieu of the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Therefore, there will be no disproportionate class cancellations.