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Memorandum

Date: April 13, 2017
To: Morgan Dufseth, Executive Officer
From: Daniel M. White, UA Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research 
Re: Response to Improvements to Common Academic Calendar Faculty Alliance Memo

Please convey the following to Faculty Alliance.

The Faculty Alliance made two recommendations to improve the common academic calendar to the Statewide Academic Council (SAC) in a memo dated February 10, 2017. The recommendations were as follows.

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Wednesday before Thanksgiving should be designated a non-teaching day at all three universities.

In the future, we recommend that throughout UA, classes not be scheduled on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, to allow adequate time for those who travel within or outside the state to be with family or friends on this significant and most-travelled holiday of the year. We have received strong feedback from faculty and students that this day should not be scheduled as a teaching day.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Each University should have the discretion to designate non-teaching days.

We strongly recommend universities retain the authority to declare non-teaching days that are relevant to the standing traditions and/or allow for the development of new ones within their institutional culture. The UAS student-driven Power & Privilege conference, the UAF Springfest, and the UAA Tuesday after Labor Day are all examples of the types of established and emerging non-teaching whose observance should be decided collaboratively within the respective university.

These recommendations were discussed at the March 16, 2017 SAC meeting and no concerns were raised. These recommendations have been transmitted to the Summit Team to be discussed during the April 24th meeting.

cc: James Johnsen, UA President