OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Samuel Frame, Academic Senate
Academic Senate Executive Committee

Date: October 27, 2026

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong

Copies: President's Leadership Cabinet
College Deans (Academic Deans' Council)
Tanner Schinderle, ASI President
Kris Jankovitz, Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Brian Spolarich, Mary Pedersen, Dinesh Pinisetty, Cheryl May, Michele Kekaha, Rachel Fernflores

Subject: Academic Calendar

Consistent with our commitment to shared governance, and in recognition of the thoughtful and candid feedback you provided about the draft Year-Round Opportunities materials, I am sharing a preview of a significant and timely calendar update.

Thank you for your diligent review of the proposed symmetrical calendars distributed for consultation and for the thoughtful conversations over the past several weeks via email and in person. I know that your input reflects your dedication to excellence for our students, and I take your recommendations seriously.

I believe that a compromise on the timing of the calendar is important to allow faculty to revise curriculum and for faculty and staff to review policy and business processes, among other activities, to prepare for Year-Round Opportunities. Consequently, I am approving the following two academic years of calendars:

AY 2027-28: 15+1 fall and spring terms, 13 week summer term
AY 2028-29: 15+1 fall and spring terms, 13 week summer term

Approving two years of calendars provides stability for planning. It gives the faculty time to teach their carefully crafted semester curriculum and where needed, revise curriculum through the iterative curriculum review process over this and the next catalog cycle. I anticipate that as planned, in 2029-30 our calendar will be comprised of three 14+1 symmetrical semesters.

It is imperative for you to have dates for the next academic year to continue your careful planning. We do not have the luxury of time to distribute the calendars for another period of feedback; however, the 15+1 calendars are a direct result of your input and are offered in the spirit of shared governance and partnership. We are in the final stages of confirming the 15+1 calendar dates for the academic years 2027-28 and 2028-29.

Please know that in 2027-28 and 2028-29, the break between fall and spring may be shorter than it is in the current AY calendar so our Maritime license students can satisfy sea term requirements in summer.

Year-Round Opportunity planning will continue apace, and we will share more frequent updates going forward.

We will begin admitting additional students in selected programs using a phased and measured process over several years beginning fall 2028. We have a fiduciary responsibility to grow responsibly (i.e. maintain small classes, enhance Learn by Doing and the Teacher-Scholar Model), but beyond that, we have a moral imperative to expand access to the education we provide because more students deserve to be here with us.

Thank you, once again, for your remarkable passion for Cal Poly.