UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR INFORMATION

PRESENTED BY: Susan Detmer, chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: April 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Change to the 2019-20 Academic Calendar

COUNCIL ACTION: For Information Only

SUMMARY:

In response to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Academic Programs Committee was asked to consider changes to the 2019-20 Academic Calendar to change the withdrawal deadline to the last day of class for the term (for all classes that follow the standard term schedule) or the last day of class (for all other classes) for Winter 2020 term as well as for Spring and Summer 2020. The Academic Programs Committee considered this request and approved the change via email on March 18, 2020.

Subsequently, the Academic Programs Committee was asked to consider a further change to the withdrawal deadline for Winter 2020, moving the deadline from the last day of class for the Winter 2020 term to May 8, 2020. This change will allow students to see their final grades and then make the decision to withdraw if they believe it is their best course of action. Changing the final withdrawal date (without academic penalty) will reduce the anxiety that at least some of our students are feeling – particularly for those students who are struggling to complete the term with the virtual and other revised formats. This change was proposed following consultation with the provost, associate deans (academic/student) and deans in all colleges.

The Academic Programs Committee considered this request by email and unanimously supported this move as a way to support students during through an unprecedented disruption of their education. The Academic Programs Committee approved the change via email on April 9, 2020.