



DE LA SALLE ARANETA UNIVERSITY

K-12++ Some Strategic Implications for DLSAU:

**Towards a Modest Proposal for Calendar Shift and
Trimestral Mode of School Operation**

Rationale for Change

The Philippine educational system is at the throes of a major structural, systemic and ideational revolution whose implementation has long been stalled due to lack of political will on the part of our educational leaders.

The introduction of the K-12 which has started a few years back and will come to a successful conclusion when the senior high school rolls off in 2016.

Rationale for Change

The introduction of the senior high school nationwide will temporarily stall the enrolment of new entrants into the university.

This will bring about the gain of students in the senior high (post secondary level) and the loss of students in the higher education level, whose effects will be financially felt by universities for the next six years effective 2016 until 2021.

Rationale for Change

The senior high school (or more appropriately called post-high school level) will classify and ferret out students after grade 10 to move into the next phase which will allow graduates of grade 10 to take any of the following options:

a) to terminate their secondary education immediately after grade 10;

b) to take a terminal program that will lead towards gainful employment after 2 years of technical-vocational skills building,

c) to take an academic track that will lead to a university education that is professional, research, special skills-training-directed and

d) to take a more non-traditional program in sports and culture/arts.

The government's move towards ASEAN integration, although basically an economic enterprise move among the Asean countries has its implications in getting the education sector to be attuned to getting our educational system very much in line with the rest of the ASEAN countries or for that matter other foreign countries by way of:

- **number of years of basic education requirement (thus, the K-12)**
- **the shift to the September opening of universities which is practically in all Asean countries**

The ASEAN educational integration will level the playing field and provide educational opportunities and access to all participating ASEAN countries by way of faculty exchange in teaching and research, student mobility, and bilateral accreditation of programs and courses.

DLSAU's Response to the Challenge: Calendar Shift and Trimestral Program

The shift in the calendar which **begins in September and ends in December (first term) and January to April (second term) and May to August (extended summer term)**.

Thus, the shift in the calendar will bring about 2 terms of 14 weeks each and an extended summer term, which is technically a double summer (also, equivalent to 14 weeks).

When implemented in 2015-2016, a typical calendar would look something like this:

April 1 – May 24

Summer Break

April 14 – May 15

Faculty Vacation

May 15 – May 24

Faculty Orientation

May 25 – August 30

Extended Summer
Term/Transition Term

August 31 – September 6

Semestral Break/
Enrolment

September 7 – December 13

December 14 – 20

December 21-Jan 3

January 4 – April 10

April 14 – May 15

May 24 – August 31

First Term

Enrolment (2nd Term)

Christmas Break

Second Term

Faculty Vacation

Third Term (EST)

Each term will have two grading periods, a Midterm and Finals, with the Midterm scheduled midway on the 7th week and Finals on the 14th week.

The schedules of classes will be as follows:

MWF

80 minutes per period

TTh

120 minutes per period

Thus, following the above number of minutes, the **MWF scheme** will follow these time slots:

0730	0850	1
0850	1010	2
1010	1130	3
1130	1250	4
1250	1410	5
1410	1530	6
1530	1650	7
1650	1810	8
1810	1930	9

The **TTh scheme** will follow these time slots:

0730	0930	1
0930	1130	2
1130	1330	3
1330	1530	4
1530	1730	5
1730	1930	6

There are a total of 15 time slots scheduled during the week, excluding Saturdays. Saturdays are scheduled for graduate classes or some special undergraduate classes.

Students are entitled to a maximum of 5 absences (15 tardiness) in a TTh subject. In an MWF subject, students are entitled to a maximum of 8 absences (or 24 tardiness).

Faculty will be given 6 teaching loads (x 3 units equals 18 units) instead of the normal 8 teaching loads (x3 units equals 24 units). However, since the 6 teaching loads is equivalent to 4 hours a week, the total number of hours per week is still 24.

The total number of hours whether in a trimestral or semestral is still 24 teaching hours within a 40-hour a week regular visible presence on campus for full time faculty.

Teaching load for part-time faculty in a semestral scheme is 15 hours (or, 5 subjects x 3 units) while in the trimestral scheme, it is 16 hours (or, 4 subjects x 4 hours).

Transition Steps towards September Shift and Trimestral Model

As a transition step, the school will still accept regular freshmen students in the Extended Summer Term (3rd Trimester) this 2015.

In the meantime, the September Term 1 will be accepting freshmen foreign students and other freshmen who were not able to enroll in May.

For current upperclassmen, they can already enroll into the Extended Summer Term (Term 3) using as subject offering guide the first and second semester course offerings.

When they enroll into the September term, they will enroll into the first semester offerings while the January term will utilize the second semester offerings.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

How ready is DLSAU for the trimestral mode? Do we have enough professors?

- All units of the university are now preparing for this transition. The administration is continuously searching for the most qualified professors to fill up the positions needed for the incoming school year. Also, the course coordinators, program chairs, and deans are now currently working with the University Registrar to adjust and finalize course offerings, curricula, and schedules for the incoming school year.

What happens if a student enrolls in 3 trimesters in a year?

- That means that the student will finish earlier than in a semestral system. For example, a 6 year program like VetMed ($2 \times 6 = 12$ semesters) will finish in 4 years ($3 \times 4 = 12$ trimesters).

What will happen to the final product requirement?

- Final product will still be a requirement. However, the percentage of the final product in the grading system will increase from 20% to 25%. The grade composition will change to Midterm and final exams (50%), Class standing (25%), and Final product (25%). Preliminary exams will be removed in the trimestral system due to the shortened number of weeks per term.

In what year are we going to implement this type of system?

- As soon as the proposal gets CHED approval. As planned this is expected to be implemented by May 2015.

Graduating students have their existing review schedules. Is the review schedule going to change now that we're going to have a trimestral system?

- Review schedules will remain the same until further notice.

Now that the term will be reduced to 14 weeks, what do we do with missed classes due to typhoons or other calamities?

- The CHED allows universities to have a maximum of 20% missed classes in their academic calendars. In cases where there is excess of 20% in missed classes, the university will set a period for make-up or extension of classes, in order for it not only to meet the said requirement but also to further provide the students the preparatory knowledge that they need for their succeeding subjects.

For a student graduating with honors, an existing rule that he/she needs to have at least 15 units of credits in academic subjects each semester, what will happen now if I plan to take a break during the 3rd term? Am I still going to be a candidate with honors?

- For current students, the 3rd term is considered as an extended summer term or Term 3, therefore the guideline on graduating with honors as stated in the student handbook still applies.

What are the courses offered during the 3rd term?

- Depending on the need or request of the students that need to catch up in their curriculum, subjects offered during the 3rd term will include the regular 1st and 2nd Term subjects. Of course, if the subject does not meet the minimum number of students, then the subject is dissolved.

In a regular semester, we are already having a difficult time coping with our subjects. How much more work are we going to have once we have the trimestral system in place?

- For the current system, a 3-unit subject needs to be taught for 54 hours/semester or 3 hours/wk. In a trimestral system, a 3-unit subject will be taught for 56 hours/term or 4 hours/week. Therefore, there will only be an additional of 2 hours in the trimestral compared to semestral system.

If I fail a subject during the 1st term, which is a prerequisite of my succeeding subject in the 2nd term, when can I take it again? Am I going to wait for the 3rd term or the 1st term of the next school year?

- The 3rd term is considered the extended summer term. Hence, a student can enroll his/her failed subject during that period as long as the class meets the required minimum number of students as set in the Student Handbook.

I plan to take my OJT during the extended summer term. Now that the summer term is longer, can I still enroll additional subjects other than my OJT?

- Students are discouraged to take additional subjects together with practicum (OJT) during the extended summer term as they could miss out the initial classroom meetings during the period while they are still with their respective practicum programs.
- One possible option in taking OJT is to enroll this subject solely during the one-month Summer Session. This could be arranged with the Registrar.

Are miscellaneous fees going to be collected in every term?

- Yes. In the current system, miscellaneous fees are being collected during the summer semester. In the trimestral, the 3rd term is considered an extended summer term, therefore, the miscellaneous fees will still have to be collected. Another possibility is to add the total miscellaneous fees for 2 semesters and equally divide the total into 3 trimesters.

Will the faculty be underloaded/overloaded?

- No, full-time faculty will still have 24 teaching hour loads per semester or trimester. The number of loads will still be the same for the entire year; in a semestral mode, a full time faculty will have $24 + 24 + 6 = 54$ while in a trimestral mode, a full time faculty will have $18 + 18 + 18 = 54$.

How many loads can a student take within a trimester?

- A student can take 21 – 24 unit load as is normally taken during a regular semester

Is it possible not to enroll in any trimester?

- Yes, a student can, for any valid reason. If one were to take a leave. apply for a leave not to enroll in any trimester. However, it is preferable to take a leave during the 3rd term because the 1st and 2nd terms offer specific subjects that can only be taken during those terms

Will the 14-week term handle the CHED's required maximum number of hours?

- Yes. In a regular semester, there are 18 weeks and a 3 unit subject which is equivalent to 3 hours. This will have a semestral total of 54 hours. Similarly, in a trimester with 14 weeks and a 3 unit subject which is equivalent to 4 hours a week, this will have a trimestral total of 56 hours (2 hours more than the CHED required number of hours).

Will the faculty have their regular one month vacation during summer?

- Definitely, they will have their regular one calendar month vacation during summer.

How about students' summer vacation?

- They will have their regular almost 2 months' vacation.

Will students still have an activity day?

- This could be scheduled during the TTH timeslots such as 1530-1730. Thus, a total of 4 hours a week for activities, organizations, etc.

Thank you.