

# Calendar debate persists

By Erica Zarra

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Two university committees met yesterday to discuss the calendar, with still no consensus being reached among the faculty, staff and students involved.

"They could not decide what the best change would be," said Faculty Senate Chair John Nichols.

"Therefore, no formal proposal was made, nothing got resolved," Nichols added.

The Undergraduate Education Committee and the University Planning Committee held meetings to discuss the Joint Committee to Review the University Calendar's recommendation, which consolidates fall break and Thanksgiving into one week.

The Undergraduate Student Government Academic Assembly's resolution, which supports keeping fall break in its current place, was also considered.

D. Josh Troxell, assembly senator for the Division of Undergraduate Studies and a member of the calendar committee, attended the Undergraduate Education Committee meeting.

"So many people feel that students aren't listened to ... But assembly put a lot of effort into the resolution and this just proves that we do have influence."

Paul Ricciardi  
academic assembly president

Troxell explained that the group went point by point through the committee's recommendations, which included reducing the number of instructional days from 75 to 72, and having one less day for final assessment.

However, it was the fate of the fall break that sparked the most discussion.

Troxell added that despite the assumption that the majority of faculty members were opposed to the current calendar, some professors spoke up at the meeting not only in favor of the current calendar, but also encouraged committee members to listen to student opinion.

Troxell said that this decision was an accomplishment for assembly, since the group was also against combining fall break and Thanksgiving.

"So many people feel that students

aren't listened to," said Academic Assembly President Paul Ricciardi. "But assembly put a lot of effort into the resolution and this just proves that we do have influence."

Although the calendar issue was not presented to the Faculty Senate during yesterday's meeting, University President Graham Spanier said that he hopes a decision is reached sometime soon.

"I don't know what the right thing is," he said during his address to the Faculty Senate.

The two committees will meet again on the morning of Jan. 28, before the Faculty Senate meeting.

Once they reach a final recommendation, it will be presented to the Faculty Senate. Spanier will then make the final decision.

# Deer spur car crashes

By Erica Zarra

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Last month, Michele Genzano (sophomore-education) was riding down the Pennsylvania Turnpike in her Toyota Paseo, with her boyfriend, who was driving her and two friends on their way to a canning trip for Interfraternity Council/ Panhellenic Dance Marathon.

Her small car was in the right lane when the car in front swerved out of her lane. Standing in front of the car was a deer — frozen in headlights. Immediately, her vehicle hit the deer and the animal landed on the hood, blowing out the windshield, she said.

The car pulled over and the passengers got out, unharmed.

When the Pennsylvania State Police arrived, they said that the passengers were very lucky because two fatal deer-vehicular accidents had already occurred that past week.

Genzano's vehicle was towed and she said that it cost her \$300 to replace the windshield. However, she still has not been able to fix the hood of the car because she said it is too expensive.

This particular season, deer are

increasingly finding their way out onto the road, resulting in a higher number of vehicular accidents.

According to the Erie Insurance Web site, the peak periods when deer are most likely to run into roadways is October, November and December, which is their mating season.

Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife resources, said that roughly 45,000 deer are probably hit each year. He explained that reasons why this happens is the fact that it is rut season, the time of year when bucks and doe mate, thereby moving around and not cognizant of crossing the street.

To avoid hitting a deer, San Julian advised to be careful, watch your speed, especially at twilight, in the dark, and the morning and drive with high beams. "You also have to watch out for areas where deer have been seen before," San Julian said.

The Erie Insurance Web site advises that if a car does hit a deer, for the passengers to report the accident to the local authorities as soon as possible and to contact their insurance company. They advised not to move the dead animal, because if it is not actually dead, it could retaliate.


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