**Summary of Report of the CFT on January Terms**

**Charge of CFT**

* Identify and assess the potential advantages and disadvantages of a January term at Xavier, considering the impact on pedagogy, students, majors, faculty, staff/administration, housing, meal plans, tuition, athletics, etc.
* Examine J terms at other universities, comparing and contrasting models.

**Calendar Options**

The addition of a 3 – 4 week term within the existing nine-month (Fall and Spring) academic calendar requires reducing the number of weeks in at least one semester, which then necessitates adopting a 60/90 minute class structure and a 12 block schedule for the shortened semester(s). A three-week term can be added as a 13th block to either the Fall or Spring semester, leaving the other semester as is.

**Landscape**

While over 100 colleges and Universities in the US have academic calendars with a “J” term, the University of Scranton is the only Jesuit institution and Miami University is the only competitor institution that do so in a manner consistent with what was envisioned by the Core Curriculum Committee.

**Identified Advantages and Challenges**

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| **Advantages** | **Challenges** |
| Ability to teach innovative and experiential courses not possible under current calendar structure. | J term calendar does not appear feasible for several programs with external constraints imposed by the state and accreditation agencies. |
| Possibility for faculty to use the J term for focused scholarly work. | Courses that meet only once a week (e.g., labs) may not be able to make up for lost meeting days. |
| Possibility of additional study abroad opportunities. | Spring semester internships in WBC and CPS will likely be negatively affected. |
| Possibility of additional service opportunities. | J term calendar may not align well with graduate program curricular needs. |
| A distinguishing program that aligns with our mission and gives Xavier a marketing advantage. | Multiple school closures due to bad weather may result in significant loss of class time. |

**Recommendation**

Given the clear institutional challenges that must be addressed, and with the new First Year Seminar and First Year Journey Program (Goa) requiring significant attention from faculty and administration over the coming years, it is the recommendation of the Cross-Function Team that the addition of a J term at Xavier University should not be pursued at this time.

See “Report of CFT on January Terms” (full report) January 22, 2015