

Philippine National Life and the Academic Calendar

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February 10, 2014

National life and the academe

- Shared economic, political, cultural activities that impact on academic life, including:
 - Paying tuition and meeting other expenses
 - Holding of classes
 - Continuity of classes
 - Focusing students' attention

- Should still consider activities specific to one area (eg Ramadan). The EdCOM (Congressional Commission on Education, Making Education Work 1991) suggested provincial superintendents should be allowed to adjust the school calendar “...to accommodate the way of life and conditions of particular communities.”

Note on “academic calendar” as used in this presentation

- Limited to regular semesters and not “summer” (or whatever the break will be called).

Commemorations

Current calendar: June-October, November-March

- February 25 (EDSA)
- June 12 (Independence Day)
- August 21 (Ninoy Aquino Day)
- August 25 (National Heroes' Day)
- November 30 (Bonifacio Day)

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- February 25 (EDSA)
- April 9 (Araw ng Kagitingan)
- May 1 (Labor Day)
- August 21 (Ninoy Aquino Day)
- August 25 (National Heroes' Day)
- November 30 (Bonifacio Day)

Other considerations

- Buwan ng Wika (August)
- Eid al Fitr, Eid al Adha as occasions for promoting Muslims-Christian understanding

June: Planting season (primary)

Current calendar (June-October, November-March)

- Classes start just as planting season does. Currently, probably of no consequence especially for students at the tertiary level.
- Independence Day could be a focus for school activities, but isn't.

Proposed calendar (August-December, January-May)

- Students would have no classes, and *could* help with farming.
- Independence Day would occur during the “summer” break.

August: For farming families, lean season “inaagosto=hunger”

**Current calendar (June-October,
November-March)**

- Some reported difficulties paying installments on tuition

Proposed calendar (August – December, January – May)

- Possible difficulties paying tuition to start a new schoolyear

September: harvesting

**Current calendar: June-October,
November-March**

- For students whose families farm, financial infusion for paying tuition installment and 2nd semester fees.

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- For students whose families farm, financial infusion for late payment of tuition.

November: All Saints' Day

**Current calendar: June-October,
November-March**

- All Saints' Day becomes a divider between semesters

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- All Saints' Day falls during 1st semester.

December: Christmas

Current calendar: June-October, November-March

- Christmas season, including parties and other celebrations, can distract. Christmas does become part of academic life, eg Lantern Parade.

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- Lantern Parade and Christmas parties would have to be moved to early December, but students and faculty would be busy with finals.

January

**Current calendar: June-October,
November-March**

- Resumption of 2nd semester classes with holiday hang-over and amnesia.

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- Start of a new semester, and new year, fresh and recharged (even with a bit of hang-over).
- Tuition payments for the new schoolyear could be a problem because of holiday spending.

March/April: Holy Week

Current calendar: June-October, November-March

- Holy Week sometimes adds to the crunched end-of-academic-year schedule with finals, theses/dissertation defenses, graduation. Add on income tax time as universities rush the BIR forms.

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- Holy Week provides a mid-term break.

May: fiestas

**Current calendar: June-October,
November-March**

- Fiestas become part of summer revelry.

Proposed calendar: August-December, January-May

- Fiestas overlap with end of the semester. Potential for social science/arts and humanities research.