

MOTION:

Be it resolved:

That the faculty adopt the following rationale and principles for Pacific Lutheran University's January term:

1. The January term's intensive, four-week format is a unique pedagogical opportunity. It supports study away, in-depth focus on a single theme or topic, and the use of student-centered and active-learning pedagogies. The January term's intensive format also supports other pedagogical activities that contribute to building an intentional culture of learning inside and outside the classroom.
2. Taking advantage of January's unique format will strengthen PLU's academic program, contribute to the flourishing of the university's academic culture, showcase the themes that PLU 2010 identifies as defining a distinctive education, and allow PLU to distinguish itself among universities in the region.
3. The January term offers an opportunity for an intensive First-Year Experience Program that combines rigorous academic study with co-curricular activities that serve the goals of the First-Year Program—thinking, literacy, and community. Further, the January term offers the opportunity to orient students to PLU's mission, support them in understanding how they position themselves within the PLU community and the world, and support them as they embrace their role as active citizens.
4. Academic offerings in the January term should be those that are suited to the intensive, four-week pedagogical context.
5. Offerings particularly suited to the January term include:
 - international and domestic study away
 - service-learning
 - student-faculty research
 - major and minor program offerings particularly suited to an intensive format
 - First-Year Experience courses
 - some internship opportunities
 - experiential learning opportunities (courses that link intellectual study with active experiences based on that learning)
 - courses appropriate to the intensive format because of individual faculty style and pedagogical decisions
 - other courses that, for pedagogical reasons, are effectively offered in an intensive term
 - curricular and co-curricular programming that contributes to an intentional culture of learning and so supports a flourishing academic culture at PLU

