A. Introduction
The CU Denver campus of the University of Colorado Denver uses an academic year calendar in which the Fall Semester starts on a Monday in August, the Spring Semester starts on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King’s Birthday holiday, and both semesters end on a Saturday/Sunday. Changes made in the schedule in 2004 to include a week-long Fall Break (1) make the spring and fall semesters equal in meeting pattern—a 17 week semester with one full week and one Monday of break—and (2) satisfy the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) guidelines for contact time for all regular class meeting patterns.

B. Policy Statement
Effective with the Fall Semester 2004, the CU Denver campus academic calendar has been modified to include a week-long Fall Break during the week in November in which Thanksgiving falls. In both the Fall and Spring Breaks, the University is open but classes do not meet.

C. Implementation
It is essential that the deans inform and remind faculty of this policy and instruct them to include the Fall and Spring Breaks in course syllabi. Deans must also ensure that the CDHE guidelines for contact time are maintained for all courses. Alternate class meeting patterns must also be adjusted to ensure compliance with CDHE guidelines for contact time.