Establishment of the academic calendar (https://www.secfac.wisc.edu/academic-calendar.htm) for the University of Wisconsin–Madison falls within the authority of the faculty as set forth in Faculty Policies and Procedures. Construction of the academic calendar is subject to various rules and guidelines prescribed by the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate and State of Wisconsin legislation. Approximately every five years, the Faculty Senate approves a new academic calendar which spans a future five-year period.

The current calendar was adopted by the Faculty Senate in September 2016.