Motion: Starting in the academic year 1986-87 the fall semester of each academic year will start on the day after Labor Day.

Rationale: There are many reasons to change the calendar back to starting after Labor Day. First, the weather can become extremely hot as it has this year, making many classrooms unbearable. Some of the buildings on campus do not have air-conditioning (Lapham Hall is not air-conditioned), others have air-conditioning but the classrooms still become barely tolerable, as in the Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. Second, many of the people of Wisconsin are upset over the early starting date. Many businesses, especially those serving tourists hire many students and would like to have them work through the Labor Day weekend. The early starting date forces some tourist establishments to close early due to lack of employees. Many students need this extra time to earn money to attend school. There are more opportunities for jobs in late summer than there are in May. People from around the state have appeared in Madison asking the legislators to pass a bill requiring schools to start after Labor Day. There has been such concern expressed statewide that, according to news reports, a bill will be introduced in the state legislature to have schools start after Labor Day. We believe we should do this before it is forced on us.

Many other schools have tried starting classes in August and have found it to be undesirable. Oshkosh went back to starting after Labor Day a number of years ago. This year Madison, Superior, and the Sheboygan Center went back to
starting after Labor Day. In addition, the public schools in
the city of Milwaukee, and a number of other communities start
classes after Labor Day. Students who are also parents may
find it difficult if university classes begin before their
children are in school.

Finally, it is disruptive to have the Labor Day break
after one week.

Motion: The spring break should coincide with Easter, as in the past,
unless it occurs after the twelfth week, in which case it
should be moved to the twelfth week.

Rationale: The eighth week is too early for a break. Some courses
require field trips and the weather is more unpredictable during
the eighth week than it is later. It is also difficult to
schedule all orientation classes for these field courses during
the eight weeks prior to trip departure. Also, since we have
many teachers taking classes it would be desirable for them if
our breaks coincided. Finally, many of us have children in
school and we would like it, if the breaks coincided. It is
not easy for everyone to find babysitters during this time.

John Minnich
David Schultz