FAPSC Motion for Academic Calendar Policy Revision.

Rationale
A letter from the Provost dated August 26th, 2011 requested that FAPSC consider providing guidelines for Reading Day. The reason for this was given as:

Currently there are no guidelines on what is and is not acceptable on reading Day. Questions arise each semester regarding optional review sessions, optional office hours, and faculty contact via email or telephone. Any guidelines for Reading Day could be incorporated into the Academic Calendar policy and reduce confusion for students and faculty alike.

It was the view of the FAPSC committee that this might be best addressed with an unambiguous statement prohibiting required activities on Reading Day. While there remain concerns about how non-required activities might be interpreted, it was not clear that comprehensive categorization or definitions of non-required activities would further reduce confusion. Prohibiting all activities could potentially have negative impact in terms of activities provided by faculty to support students on this day.

Recommendation of the FAPSC committee
It is recommended that required activities be prohibited on Reading Day.

The revision to the academic calendar is shown in blue in appendix A below.

Appendix A: Reading day policy revision

University of North Carolina at Charlotte Academic Policy:

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Policy Statement

The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina has enacted regulations (UNC Policy Manual, Chapter 400.1.6) for the minimum number of class days per semester and academic year. All UNC campuses must ensure that every course offered for academic credit adheres to the standard minimum requirements of instructional time for the semester and academic year. The time may include required examination periods, but not Reading Day. Required activities are prohibited on Reading Day.

When unplanned university closures result in UNC Charlotte falling below the minimum number of contact hours required by North Carolina law, the University will institute a makeup day. This makeup day will be used to make up the most recent day of cancelled class and will be held on the Tuesday of fall recess (Fall semester) or the Friday of spring recess (Spring Semester).