Makin' maymesters

The proposal to create a new Maymester program would give students a new way to squeeze in class credit before picking up their summer jobs.

Board Editorial

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Good news, scholars - you might be able to fit in a class between the end of the spring semester and the beginning of the first summer semester in the foreseeable future. After all, down time is for chumps.

In the works is a program that will allow students to take a three-week course in May. Administrators should make sure this great idea becomes available as soon as possible, and when it does students should take advantage of it.

The cleverly named Maymester will give students an opportunity to learn in an environment in which they receive hands-on experience with a professor and a few of their peers.

Nothing has been finalized, but the ideas being thrown around are rather exciting: studying astronomy in Chile, boning up on art history in Italy and exploring the floor on Wall Street.

It's some exciting stuff and has no excessive time or financial commitments attached.

While UNC is a hotbed of innovation, the Maymester plan isn't an original South Building joint. The universities of Texas, Virginia Tech and Mississippi have similar programs.

And we look forward to UNC joining that list.

While the Maymester idea might have arisen because of the mandatory process of reaccrediting the University with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, it shouldn't be an idea that's flirted with just to please SACS.

It's a program that has too much potential to be ignored or to be put forth and then fade away.

Students and administrators should get behind the Maymester to ensure it gets off to a good start.

We already know that James Allred, the student body president-elect, is behind it - in fact he sits on the committee that is proposing the idea.

But it's still up to others to get the ball rolling to make this good plan on paper into a feasible program for the students of this University.

Administrators should explore Maymester and give it the resources it needs to work.
And to students: When the program gets up and running in 2007, go ahead and register for its classes.

Think of it as a study abroad - except you don't have to leave home behind for half of a year to enjoy the experience.

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