



**Dr. Kestutis G. Bendinskas**

Distinguished Service Professor, Member of SUNY Distinguished Academy, Executive Editor of the *American Journal Of Undergraduate Research*,  
Department of Chemistry, SUNY at Oswego, Oswego, NY, 13126  
office (315)-312-2696, lab (315)-312-5237  
kestutis.bendinskas@oswego.edu, <http://www.oswego.edu/~bendinsk/>, <http://www.ajuronline.org>

Re: Quest date

12/2/2021

Dear Academic Calendar Committee members,

Quest is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> of 2022. Given the spring break from March 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, the following schedule will likely be used:

- deadline for author+title+abstract submission to the departmental Quest rep: March 7<sup>th</sup>;
- deadline for reps' submissions to the Quest database: March 11<sup>th</sup>;
- deadline for schedule being published: March 21<sup>st</sup>;
- deadline for poster submission: March 28<sup>th</sup>.

I propose to move Quest two weeks and run it on the third Wednesday of April instead. I ask you to please consider the following facts and opinions:

- 1) Quest is important for all students and faculty across Oswego campus and Syracuse downtown center; also, to a lesser extent, for our guests from town and local schools; increasing participation in Quest is one of the challenges we face.
- 2) Students taking part in scholarly and creative activities (SCA) for two semesters or longer should not experience significant challenges with the current schedule.
- 3) Students who participate in SCA in the Spring semester only often choose not to participate in Quest because of the early March submission deadlines for an abstract when they have few outcomes of their scholarly and creative activities to report. Spring Capstone and Independent studies students are affected by that. Early poster printing deadline is also problematic for such students.
- 4) Moving Quest one week might be difficult in the light of events scheduled in mid-April in Albany. Moving Quest to the first week of May or even the last week of April may be problematic due to the end-of-semester tasks that students concentrate on, especially if they are graduating.
- 5) The academic calendar is posted online and printing issues should not hold us back. Syllabi for Spring will not be prepared till late January.
- 6) Unbeknownst to me, some large national conferences and athletic events might be overlapping with the third Wednesday of April. If it affects a large number of students, it might be a significant issue for them.
- 7) 15-20 years back, Quest was held after the "tax day"; this proposal is to return it to its traditional time.
- 8) The move is expected to increase Spring student project participation. It would also decrease the submission time frame by a week because it'd not overlap with the Spring break. Thus, students will gain 3 weeks.
- 9) Scholarly and Creative Activities Committee voted to recommend holding Quest on the third Wednesday of April. Several departmental reps passionately argued in favor of this move.
- 10) The Research Council of the Faculty Assembly discussed and supported this move.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KB", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kestutis G. Bendinskas