

TO: Steering
FROM: Committee on Strategic Planning and Priorities
RE: Class Scheduling Grid Final Recommendation
DATE: November 13, 2013

Background:

The current scheduling grid was designed to support the curricular transformation and was adopted for the 2004-2005 academic year. In October 2007, The Committee on Academic Programs was charged with reviewing the class scheduling grid. CAP formed an ad hoc committee to work on this charge and submitted a final recommendation to the Provost's Office in June 2009. The final recommendation was, however, never accepted. Additionally, since the 2007 CAP review of the grid, enrollments at The College have increased by 10%.

Charge:

CSPP requests that CSPP examine the class scheduling grid to assess the design and operational use of the class scheduling grid and to make recommendations as appropriate.

Among the sets of questions that might be usefully considered are:

- 1) Does the College's current class scheduling grid support the transformed curriculum? Does the scheduling grid facilitate the optional scheduling of a fourth hour for classes at the discretion of the instructor?
- 2) Are needs of graduate classes accommodated? What are the differences between day and evening classes? Note: There are faculty who want to begin teaching the 5:30 grid hour at 5:00, which is acceptable at the graduate level but not at the undergraduate level where it would conflict with a scheduled fourth hour.
- 3) Does the grid support the needs of each individual school? Are scheduling patterns different amongst schools? What are the implications of scheduling off the grid? What guidelines should be used for decision-making regarding off-grid scheduling?
- 4) How does the scheduling grid impact the dining services and the flow of students through dining venues?
- 5) Does the grid support the needs of affected clients: students, staff, and faculty?
- 6) Does the grid lead to the efficient utilization of classroom space and resources?

Development of recommendation:

CSPP reviewed data provided by records and registration concerning classroom usage, including 2007 data shared with CAP in 2009-2010, with the caveat that there has been a 10% growth in enrollment since this data was accumulated. Further CSPP heard concern from cabinet officers regarding pressures on food services and pressures on future use of the new STEM building due to inefficiencies in the grid. CSPP issued a preliminary recommendation that the grid be changed to a grid proposed by Records and Registration entitled “PRIDE” but shared three different potential grids with the campus. Testimony was gathered at Academic Leaders, at a campus open forum, and at Staff Senate and Student Government meetings. Electronic feedback was also provided by faculty and chairs in several departments. In at least one case, concerns were raised that curricula would require revisions to conform to the new grid. Other concerns raised included a desire for options to offer 110-minute and 170-minute classes and a desire to spread opportunities for intellectual community across both the Monday-Thursday and the Tuesday-Friday class schedules.

Final Recommendation:

CSPP recommends the adoption of the attached grid beginning Fall 2014.

Built into this grid is the understanding that 170-minute classes can be accommodated beginning at 8:00am or at 2:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, but typically will not be offered in the 11:00am-2:00 pm slot.

Some departments currently offer 110 minute classes. In the new schedule grid, these may be scheduled beginning at 7:30am or at 3:30pm on Monday-Thursday or on Tuesday-Friday. In addition, they may also be scheduled beginning at 1:30pm on Tuesday-Friday.

CSPP encourages deans and faculty chairs to work collaboratively to resolve scheduling issues, and to prioritize the pedagogical needs of students in those negotiations. This is especially important during the transition to the new grid which will be challenging for some departments and schools. We recognize that there are pedagogically legitimate variations on the 80-minute, twice a week scheduling model and also that these variations cannot always be accommodated.

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