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Restrictions on Class Scheduling

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Approved by the Senate: 9/16/2004

Not Approved by the Senate:

Approved by the President: 10/19/2004

Not Approved by the President:

Restrictions on Class Scheduling

Submitted by Jim Braselton

8/13/2004

Motion:

Please provide me with an explanation of how the new "Proposed Course Time Meetings" were planned and implemented. I have requested explanations from the Registrar's office three times and have received no response.

Rationale:

I have been told that there are to be no 2:00-3:15 MW courses. Why is 2:00-3:15 still listed as a course time? More importantly, if 2:00-2:50 is the only time on MWF, why does the next class not meet until 3:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays? If 2:00-2:50 is the only class time on MWF, then the next class should be 3:00-4:15 MW. The one after that should be 4:30-5:45 MW. From one individual, I heard that adding this class time will improve the parking situation on campus. I do not understand how increasing the number of hours that an individual's car is on campus would improve the situation. Also, this adjustment does not increase the number of periods available each week.

Besides that, in our department, some classes, like the math ed classes actually need to be taught on a two day a week schedule. Are we supposed to schedule them all for 3:30 and 5:00 when now we can schedule them for 2:00, 3:30, and 5:00?

Most importantly, Friday class attendance is notoriously dreadful across campus.

How will stretching those Friday classes later into the afternoon improve the situation? Students tend to speak with their feet--I can't imagine this working out to their benefit.

If increasing the number of time periods each week is an issue, I suggest the following. Keep the TR schedule as it is. For MWF, start classes at 7:30 a.m. so it would look like this:

1. 7:30-8:20 MWF
2. 8:30-9:20 MWF
3. 9:30-10:20 MWF
4. 10:30-11:20 MWF
5. 11:30-12:20 MWF
6. 12:30-1:20 MWF
7. 1:30-2:20 MWF
8. 2:30-3:45 MW
9. 4:00-5:15 MW
10. 5:30-6:45 MW
11. 7:00-8:15 MW

This proposal increases the number of class periods. So, if departments offered their courses throughout the day, the parking congestion would be alleviated.

SEC Response:

SEC Minutes 9/4/2004: The Requests for Information initiated by Jim Braselton (COST) concerning changes to the class meeting times were discussed. Rice provided information on the origin of the changes. The SEC decided a Motion under New Business would be made by Bob Cook to return to the previous schedule until such time as faculty could be apprised of, and help solve, the problems that motivated the change.

Senate Response:

Minutes: 9-16-2004: Jeanette Rice Jenkins (COST, Senate Moderator) recognized Bob Cook (CIT) who made a motion on behalf of Jim Braselton of COST. Cook moved that the new restrictions on class scheduling be suspended beginning in the fall semester of 2005, and that, in the interim, the problems being addressed be communicated to the faculty in order to give the faculty an opportunity to participate in the solution of those problems. The motion was seconded and Rice Jenkins asked for discussion.

Bob Cook (CIT) commended Braselton for bringing this motion forward. He said that, in his experience, he had seen class schedules change for a host of different reasons and

that faculty were generally agreeable to whatever the motivation for the changes were. But in this case, he said, restrictions were being placed on class scheduling without the benefit of faculty involvement. Thus faculty members do not know what the motivation for the changes is. Perhaps, if faculty members were involved in the planning they might come up with a better solution than the one proposed at the moment.

Annette Laing (CLASS) also commended Jim Braselton for bringing the motion forward and stated that the Senate should send a firm message to the Registrar's Office that imposing class-schedule changes without the benefit of faculty guidance was counterproductive. Rice Jenkins asked Laing if she was in favor of the motion on the floor and Laing answered in the affirmative.

Mark Edwards (COST, Senate Secretary) noted that the Registrar's Office did not decide the class schedule changes. At this point, Rice Jenkins took the opportunity to call upon Linda Bleicken (Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs) to explain just how the new class schedules were decided upon.

Linda Bleicken noted that the idea to revise class time slots began in March, 2003 when Joe Franklin (Interim Vice-President for Business and Finance) suggested that Georgia Southern University probably could avoid building additional parking simply by having a more-efficient class schedule. The President sent a memo to Ron Core, then Vice-President for Business and Finance, on April 22, 2003 which focused on facilities utilization and the parking situation. This precipitated further discussion that resulted in the Enrollment Management Council being charged with making recommendations for altering the class schedule. The Council was responsible for devising the new schedule and they did consult the Dean's Council but, Bleicken said, was slow to communicate the new schedule to the Faculty. She apologized for that and said that the change was not made by fiat, however.

Jeanette Rice Jenkins (COST, Senate Moderator), hearing no further discussion, called on Bob Cook to reread the motion. She then asked the Senate to vote and the motion passed by voice vote. I am pleased to report that the Senate recommends approval of the motion below presented by Dr. Bob Cook on behalf of Mr. Jim Braselton at the September 16, 2004, Faculty Senate meeting.

Motion:

That the the new restrictions on class scheduling be suspended beginning in Fall 2005, and that in the interim the problems being addressed be communicated to the Faculty in order to give the faculty an opportunity to participate in the solution of those problems.

Rationale:

The current “proposed” adjustments to the schedule of class times posted on the Registrar’s website that are now being implemented do not appear to alleviate any course scheduling and/or traffic congestion problems.

President’s Response:

Following review of the recommendation adopted by the Faculty Senate at the September 16, 2004, meeting, as provided in your memo of September 22, 2004, I have approved the motion presented by Dr. Bob Cook on behalf of Mr. Jim Braselton regarding Restrictions on Class Scheduling