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Rationale and Duration of MW Schedule Changes

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Senate Executive Committee Request Form

SEC via campus mail: PO Box 8033-1

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Request for Information

9/14/2020

SHORT TITLE:

(Please provide a short descriptive title.)

Rationale and duration of MW schedule changes.

QUESTION(s):

(Please state your request or requests in question form as concisely as possible.)

Question:


Faculty were told last week that we can no longer schedule daytime, three-credit 1-hour 15-minute classes on Mondays/Wednesdays. We were told that 1-hour 15-minute classes will only be on Tuesday/Thursday, and 50-minute classes will only be on Monday/Wednesday/Friday. However, none of the area coordinators or department chairs I've asked could tell me why this mandate was made. I am using this RFI to ask three questions related to this scheduling mandate: One, what is the rationale for the change? What is the stated justification? Two, who made this decision, and why was it made unilaterally without input from faculty or department-level administration? Three, will this change be permanent, or is this a unique situation caused by coronavirus concerns?


RATIONALE(s):


(Please explain why this issue is one of general concern for the Faculty Senate or for the University and not a matter concerning only an individual college or administrative area. Please note what other, if any, attempts you have made to garner this information before submitting this request to the Faculty Senate.)


This scheduling change appears to be happening university-wide. I have asked area coordinators, department chairs, and a college dean, and all of them indicated they were not given a justification, rationale, or details for this change.

If you have an attachment, press the button below to attach to form and send.

 Revised Standard Class Meeting Times 9-8-2020.pdf
573.16 KB

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Note to faculty users: Double-check your data before submitting, because the data cannot be edited afterward

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

9/14/2020 

Response:

Approved 

Executive Committee Response:

Sent to Carl Reiber, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Reiber took this and additional questions and answered all through this response and again at the Faculty Senate meeting on 17th. The Office of the Provost recently shared some scheduling advice, guidelines and recommendations along with the larger university scheduling guide. These recommendations were intended to help schedulers imagine new opportunities for the Spring 2020 schedule. As part of this, we added some new times later in the day to allow schedulers to immediately take advantage of additional instructional spaces. While we recognize that this would present a change to a small percentage of our classes, the potential benefits of opening our schedule are clear. This addition allow us to:

- respond to the repeated observations from faculty, especially from the Armstrong and Liberty campuses, that later offering provides more opportunities for working and non-traditional students.
- respond to expressed faculty needs; the additional times provide opportunities for faculty needing to provide child, elder, or family care.
- lessen the density of campus in instructional spaces throughout the day. We already have a small number of departments using similar additional time-slots, and these additions will allow more students and faculty the same benefits.