

Academic Assembly  
November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Present: Chuck, Franc, Jacquelyn, Paul, William Kangas, Jason, John W, John S, Rob Katherine, Mary, Brenda, Kristen S, Gayatri, Sonora, Marianne LaBarre, Allison Henrich, Isiaah, Karen

Guests: Mara Rempe, Joyce Allen, David Boness, Burt Hopkins, Michael Andrews, David Powers

1. Welcome
2. Guests
3. Block Scheduling
  - a. Burt Hopkins, expressing concern on behalf of A&S chairs regarding block scheduling. Official minutes from A&S mtg on feb 10, 2010 (get verbiage from BH)
    - i. A&S feels blindsided, concern is pedagogical,
    - ii. A&S had 14 courses that did not run three or two days/wk, most were introductory modern language, possibly one philosophy and one english
  - b. David Boness, S&E, problems are scheudling to work for students who are double/triple majors/ interns, etc. mapping 5-cr classes onto block sched., suggest to delay one year to discuss the pedagogical process, anticipating problems with advising
  - c. Mara - not going to be able to predict the problems, there will be problems, this schedule would get rid of the overlap problem, delay it a year wouldn't necessarily guarantee a smooth process, Mara has put together a draft of rooms an "allotment of rooms", course draft provided to sch/col to determine which courses are when, schools and colleges are given a set amount of blocks,
  - d. Scheduling cmte, dir. Mara, each college/sch has room schedule - as issues come up refer to scheduler
  - e. Rob, general open mindedness, but concerned with where the rubber hits the road
  - f. Provost, apologized for not sending out notification of move to block scheduling; asked why we should postpone this with the revision of the Core for next AY; Peer institutions are on block schedule, benefits to the institution and students to be on a block schedule; understands the effort and work to be done to implement this block schedule; we are sensitive to communication concerns that may happen within the col/sch level; we all have a similar outlook for the benefit of our students, hope that in the future improve the communication betw aca reps and faculty, and keep the channels open for voices
  - g. Powers: hoping to improve communications in light of this concern, has been discussed within the college,
  - h. Karen: assembly has discussed the hope that in the future to give the ability to have the opportunity to bring discussions back to the sch/col before a vote
  - i. The assembly depends on the representatives on this body if there are concerns with certain issues within schools and colleges

- j. John S, Hear very little from faculty members when faculty-wide announcements are made and asked for response
  - k. Paul, impression that scheduling structure is a delicate thing, there will always be difficult complications and issues, scheduling courses, working out problems, where/how are we on this - will help determine if we should postpone, how hard is this, how much work
    - i. ex: in S&E there are less morning slots, afraid that students will
    - ii. chairs in S&E have been working together to determine where the problems are
    - iii. hoping that CORE honors will stick to tues/thurs slot
    - iv. less in touch with faculty hours, individual's schedule - anticipating problems there
  - l. Joyce A: translating in a very short time, if there are issues in the fall can precurse improvement in winter and spring, there is a knowledge that exists of how courses work together based on our past, there are people facilitating the known processes while building the schedule,
  - m. Rob, concerned with the breaking point where the school looks bad,
  - n. Provost offers assurance that this is possible, have faith in our institution, has signed off on this, is essentially invisible for the students,
  - o. Kangas, perception is that this is problematic, the enormous difficulties, anxieties
  - p. Provost, great deal of research has gone into this, can take into consideration lessons learned from the other institutions already using block scheduling, SU is behind the times our peers are already using, change is anxiety provoking,
  - q. Math expressed excitement and in favor.
  - r. This schedule will make things more predictable.
  - s. Jason, surprised that by the time it got to ACA it had been vetted and dialogue and discourse has occurred prior to coming here
  - t. Provost, with endorsement of CAD and DC,
  - u. Powers, knew and anticipated the modern language issue, but did not know more about the concerns with other dept until more formal schedule released
  - v. MRC, made it clear that were not in approval at the CAD level with the block schedule, for pedagogical reasons they have 4 and 5-day a week class - but will make it work; confident that we will move forward
  - w. speed of implementation concern
  - x. Joyce, extended deadlines for scheduling, to allow more time; want to make this as positive as possible, answer some of the delicate balance questions,
4. Notice of Closure
- a. concern with clinical that start at 6:30am, commuters that would have already been on the road
  - b. Nursing sends out
  - c. trying to get things out early