



Faculty Senate minutes for Oct. 1, 2019

Members present: Adam Ekins, Alan Pruitt, Brooke Ayars, Joann Chang, Kara Tucker-Morgan, Ed Schubert, William Blomquist, Sonja Greiner, Angel Luna, Maureen Garrett, Rita Brown, Lee Altman, Matt Smith, Liza Martinez

A. Old Business

1. ASRS Update: An outside firm has recently begun to audit employee contributions to ASRS; a full report is expected when complete.

2. New Schedule and Common Hour: The Faculty Senate passed a resolution (14/0) proposing the adaption of the "third option" schedule, with a start time of 7 am and a common hour of 4 pm to 5:30 pm, rather than the "blue" schedule, with a common hour from 3 pm to 4:30 pm, which was recently adapted by the President's Cabinet. (see below)

[Note: On 10/8/19, President Corr acknowledged the resolution, but indicated that the blue schedule will go into effect as planned, with periodic evaluations and adjustments as needed.]

3. VP Learning Services Search Committee: The committee will be composed of 10 members, five of whom will be faculty/division chairs. The committee will determine whether a master's or doctoral degree will be required.

B. New Business

1. Campus Works contract: AWC has signed a five-year contract with Campus Works, a private IT provider, effective 9/9/19.

Good of the Order: Questions were raised about the distribution of funds that will no longer be required for the football program, internal promotions v. announced vacancies, and funding for scholarships earned under Yuma Promise.



A. 2.: Resolution to Adopt the Third Option Schedule

WHEREAS, the AWC Faculty Senate is responsible for participating in educational policy; and

WHEREAS, faculty senators reviewed the adopted blue centralized schedule with the common hour from 3 pm to 4:30 pm versus the third option schedule that starts at 7:00 am and a common hour from 4 pm to 5:30 pm; and

WHEREAS, faculty senators recognize the responsibility to offer courses to serve students while also performing their duties in shared governance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the proposed third option schedule with a common hour from 4 pm to 5:30 pm be approved for adoption for the 2020-2021 academic year.

APPROVED this the 1st of October, 2019.

Senators

	Division	Vote
Adam Ekins	SOSC	YES
Brooke Ayars	SOSC	YES
Angel Luna	Arts	YES
Bill Blomquist	Arts	YES
Liza Martinez	Mod. Lang	YES
Martha Martinez	Mod. Lang	Not Present
Rita Brown	Math/EGR	YES
Ila Peterson	Math/EGR	Not Present
Lee Altman	CTE	YES
Alan Pruitt	Wellness	YES
Ed Schubert	Communications	YES
Sonja Greiner	Communications	YES
Matthew Smith	SCID	YES
Kara Tucker-Morgan	SCID	YES
Maureen Garrett	SCID-Adjunct	YES
Amanda Smith	Business/CIS	Not Present

Rationale: Senators discussed the approved blue centralized schedule and the common hour to be set at 3 pm to 4:30 pm. Of concern was the quality of the data used to develop the schedule, and that Cabinet, in good faith, may have relied on data assumed to be quality but may be flawed. As far as faculty are aware, no statisticians or scientist, who are knowledgeable about the unbiased collection of data and the proper interpretation of the data, were included on the committee. Another concern is that the proposed common hour envelops part of one and all of another time block, which will cause issues with the scheduling of afternoon classes. The following were issues discussed on the data used to develop the centralized schedule:

1. Survey bias: student surveys using pizza as an incentive only occurred in the afternoon; morning and evening students may not have been present on the campus at this time.
2. Survey did not list specific hours that students wanted to take classes: the survey only presented students with ranges of time (8:00 am-12 pm, 12 pm-4:00 pm, evening, weekends). No times before 8 am were offered, thus the only way to estimate an earlier preference would be based on the times the classes were offered on the schedule being used at the time of the survey. These estimates would be suspect, see point #4.
3. Survey was not a full demographics survey: part of the rationale used for the blue schedule is that we are serving parents who have children in area schools, but the survey did not ask if the participant had children in the K-12 system. This means assumptions were used, not data.
4. Incorrect correlations: pulling information on times that AWC offers classes on the current schedule was used as data for times students want to take classes. This uses an improper cause and effect assumption. The class starting times are times that faculty and divisions offer the classes and do not necessarily correlate to those times students want to take classes.
5. Incorrect assumption of less classes after 3 pm: there are multiple divisions; e.g., the Arts and the Science divisions, which have classes longer than 1hr 15mins. Numerous courses are greater in length than two hours and start in a time slot before 3 pm and then carry over until after 3pm. These courses may not be included in the calculation of the number of students in class during that 3 pm time period.

Senators from most of the divisions (Business representative not available) reviewed the schedules presented and took into consideration the current student population they are serving, the available adjunct faculty who could teach, and their own required duty to a common hour. After careful consideration of these factors and review of the data, a resolution was approved to adopt the third option schedule, which begins at 7 am with a common hour at 4 pm to 5:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. This choice would allow more divisions to offer classes starting in a time block before 3 pm and ending after 3 pm, which would reduce the need to find adjuncts who can work during the afternoon, and the movement of afternoon classes into earlier time blocks, in order to meet student demand. This third option schedule would result in the least amount of disruption for both students and faculty.