

Recommendation from MWF/Common Meeting Time Ad Hoc Committee

Colleges should work to maximize the utilization of their classroom spaces while taking into consideration pedagogical issues that may affect instructional timing. Creativity as well as coordination and collaboration among colleges is needed to make both of these happen.

For example, it is practical to request that departments schedule core, Area F, and support courses using the currently approved course times, as students completing these areas often need to take classes from several disciplines in one term. By using the approved course times, potential scheduling issues created by off-schedule courses are minimized. However, most students, once they reach their junior year, take classes almost exclusively from their major department. Therefore, departments could be provided alternative options for scheduling within their major, provided that rooms continue to be used throughout the week and care is taken to ensure that majors have access to all the courses they need. For instance, a department could choose to offer major classes on M-W and T-R schedules, and use Friday mornings and afternoons for one-day-a-week, block classes in the major. This is already the practice in several Health Science departments and the College of Education.

To provide additional and more convenient times for departments and/or colleges to meet, each college might choose to designate a particular class time on the grid (CoB *might* choose TR 2:00-3:15 while CoAS *might* choose TR 8:00-9:15) as a college common meeting time during which no classes ~~would be~~ ^{have been} scheduled. Instead, the selected block would be used for meetings of constituencies in that college (college faculty meetings, college committees, student groups for majors in that college, department faculty meetings for departments in that college, other college functions, etc.). Unused classrooms would then be available for scheduling classes by other colleges (CoB could schedule a class in a CoAS classroom during the CoAS common meeting time) or perhaps the adjuncts in the college (adjuncts are likely not going to be attending the scheduled college meetings) could be teaching during this college common meeting time.

There are other ways to schedule classes that maximize classroom utilization than what is currently being implemented. As a university community, we should seek them while keeping university classroom utilization as high as possible and not compromising best pedagogical practices and student scheduling needs.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 28, 2012