

Deans' Council Minutes
September 8, 2005

Fall 2005 Class Schedule Breakdown by Department—Provost distributed to Deans the Fall 05 class schedule organized by department and time period. She noted that there were over 90 sections scheduled TR 9:30 and TR 11:00 and asked Deans for advice about how to begin spreading the schedule. It was agreed to target the most troublesome class times and seek a reduction in the number of sections by about 20 percent. Deans asked the Provost to assign the number of sections per time period, by college.

Information from May 2003 Student Survey about Preferred Times—The survey was distributed and discussed. It showed greater flexibility about class times that had been assumed previously. Of 493 respondents, 30% preferred morning, 26% preferred afternoon, and 43% voted for evenings. Another survey will be designed to target Commerce students only to seek information on work times and locations, preferred class times and related information.

Responding to the Fuel Cost Impact—Deans discussed class scheduling and delivery options that would alleviate budget problems for commuting students. These included the following:

1. Langford Scheduling Proposal for B&T—shift to a M-R/T-F schedule for selected classes
2. Two-Way Interactive Television
3. Internet classes

Science Building Scheduling for Spring 2006—Deans discussed the move into the new space and the fact that the building does not have as many classrooms as the old facility. Dean Klein will work with Department Heads to schedule the classes and labs and provide this schedule to the Provost for entry into the software. Efforts will be made to meet State standards of 38 hours per week per classroom and 25 hours per week per laboratory.

Spreading the Schedule—Procedure for doing it? For Spring 2006, Deans will attempt to schedule 20% fewer classes at the high impact times as a start to realigning the schedule to limit competition among departments.

A&M-Commerce Scholarship Program—Provost distributed latest information from the Scholarship Office about how many students were awarded major academic scholarships, how many accepted or declined, and how many enrolled. We show a decline in the Presidential scholars and the Phi Theta Kappa scholars from last year. Concern remains that awards may not be competitive.

Summer School 2006 Planning—Provost briefed Deans on the Summer School process and the need to produce credit hours for the count period. An analysis is being conducted of the student credit hour generation for 2005, the cost per credit hour, and the level of administrative overhead. There is likely to be a limit placed on the amount of administrative load allowed. Junior faculty should be encouraged to teach. Deans suggested re-introducing the 10:15 enrollment ratios for undergraduate/graduate courses.

Commencement Follow-Up Report—There continues to be interest in arranging a full undergraduate commencement in the Field House for December. A planning group will meet and determine what needs to be done to make it happen.