**DRAFT Course Schedule Change Proposal**

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Focus

Course schedule for in-person and blended/hybrid courses on the main campus meeting from 7:30am-5:30pm (predominantly TUG courses)

Rationale

1. Current schedule developed when the university was primarily a 4-year residential school
2. Who our TUG students are has shifted

* Students are navigating a different educational climate (e.g. technology, economics, rationale for attendance, etc.) than in past decades.
* 25% of TUG students are transfers
* 57% of all TUG students commute
* 45% of all TUG students are athletes; 55% of incoming F2024 class are athletes
* 36% of TUG student-athletes commute
* many work significant hours to support school and/or family
* predominantly degree and job focused

1. Current course schedule and course scheduling practices do not serve these students well
2. Course Schedule

* The schedule itself has limited slots (Tu/Th) as 2-day/week options. Data show this is a clear preference for both students and faculty.
* The popularity of the Tu/Th slots (combined with minimal communication across programs – see below) lead to a significant number of course conflicts for students.
* Current course schedule has variable course lengths, which results in timeslot overlaps, course conflicts, and reduced student options.

1. Course Scheduling Practices

* There is currently minimal coordination across programs, departments, and schools. This makes it difficult (and at times impossible) to create course schedules with proper sequencing. It prevents progression toward degree completion in the timeframe promised.
* Courses are cancelled last minute or change times last minute, disrupting students’ planned schedules, impeding completing of degree program in the time promised. This is especially difficult for student-athletes and students who work and/or commute.
  + quality of programs compromised by the need to substitute courses for those required

Summary: The current schedule and scheduling practices have a negative impact on student retention and institutional reputation. We are not delivering students the excellent education we promise and that they deserve. We can do better in embodying our mission, identity, and institutional culture in these areas.

Options for Consideration

An initial draft of two alternative course schedule options follows.

Option 1 presents a M/W, Tu/Th schedule with Fridays flexible.

Option 2 presents two versions of a M/W/F, Tu/Th schedule, a) one with 75-minute blocks in the morning and b) one with 75-minute blocks in the afternoon.

Both options presume:

* curriculum mapping to aid course scheduling
* only 3-unit course time blocks
* wide distribution of courses across all time blocks
* maximized use of classroom space
* priority of large classes offered at multiple times

Suggested Metrics for evaluating draft alternative schedules

1. Optimizes student experience
2. Optimizes course offerings to meet the needs of the student and their degree path
3. Eliminates wasted time inherent in the schedule pattern
4. Maximizes classroom utilization throughout the day and week
5. Minimizes course offering conflicts in each time slot

**OPTION 1 M/W & T/TH, with FRIDAY FLEX**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 7:45  9:00 | 7:45  9:00 | 7:45  9:00 | 7:45  9:00 | Classes end early, unstructured grid, committee work during afternoons, etc. |
| 9:10  10:25 | 9:10  10:25 | 9:10  10:25 | 9:10  10:25 |
| 10:35  Activity/College Hour  11:50 | 10:35  Activity/College Hour  11:50 | 10:35  Activity/College Hour  11:50 | 10:35  Activity/College Hour  11:50 |
| 12:00  1:15 | 12:00  1:15 | 12:00  1:15 | 12:00  1:15 |
| 1:25  2:40 | 1:25  2:40 | 1:25  2:40 | 1:25  2:40 |
| 2:50  4:05 | 2:50  4:05 | 2:50  4:05 | 2:50  4:05 |
| 4:15  5:30 | 4:15  5:30 | 4:15  5:30 | 4:15  5:30 |  |

**OPTION 1 Things to Consider**

Daily Course Schedule – 24 Available Rooms (Main Campus)

1. Creates uniformity for activity hour and removes variability from “daily” schedule for students that need a standard work schedule—they can possibly begin/end day at or near the same time each day
2. Each day ends at 5:30PM. Our current schedule has some courses & labs ending at 6 on T/TH and 5:40PM for classes on M/W/F
3. Labs will need to be mirrored on the schedule
   1. Labs are currently offered once per week, which means that the corresponding block of their mirrored day is left open and can’t be scheduled. Example: If a lab is on Wednesday from 10-12, there can’t be anything else on a student’s schedule on Monday or Friday from 10-12
   2. Moving to twice a week provides ~2.5 hours of lab time rather than 2 hours
4. Friday would still be utilized, but it should be reserved for classes that might need to be offered once a week for an extended session, labs that might need more prep work, etc., and then close campus for classes earlier in the day (noon or 2PM, for example)
   1. Allows for accommodation of athletics, students working jobs, etc.
   2. Friday courses do not need to follow the same block schedule
      1. These should be courses with no issues overlapping 🡪 Shakespearean Literature is *probably* not going to have an issue overlapping with the Org. Chem lab
   3. Evening classes do not need to go away, this is just an alternative to the “once a week” format for students who might be interested, but don’t want to stay until 9PM
5. Classes need to be planned with maximum efficiency to allow high enrollment courses to fit into the schedule with limited availability for larger classrooms
6. Ending courses by mid-day on Friday creates a timeslot where faculty are available to participate in university-wide events, celebrations, or meetings, as well as an option for occasional faculty workdays and faculty development opportunities.
7. The mirrored schedule (M/W, Tu/Th) generates efficiency for courses that have multiple sections. The M/W schedule and Tu/Th schedule are interchangeable.
8. Allowing Athletics to have the final block in the day means we have a total possible number of 240 sections (based on classrooms available) for M/W & T/TH. Without an Athletics block we would have 288 sections available to schedule. This is completely excluding accounting for any Friday sections.

**OPTION 2.a M/W/F & T/TH with 3-unit blocks and Biweekly Mornings**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 7:45AM | 7:45AM | 7:45 AM | 7:45AM | 8:45AM |
| 9:00AM | 9:00AM | 9:00AM | 9:00AM | Labs, 3-hour lectures, etc. |
| 9:10AM | 9:10AM | 9:10AM | 9:10AM |
| 10:25AM | 10:25AM | 10:25AM | 10:25AM |  |
| 10:35AM | 10:35AM | 10:35AM | 10:35AM |
| 11:50AM | 11:50AM | 11:50AM | 11:50AM | 11:50AM |
| 12:00PM  12:50PM | 12:00PM  Activity Hour | 12:00PM  12:50PM | 12:00PM  Activity Hour | 12:00PM  12:50PM |
| 1:00PM  Activity Hour  1:50PM | 1:15PM | 1:00PM  Activity Hour  1:50PM | 1:15PM | 1:00PM  Activity Hour  1:50PM |
| 1:25PM | 1:25PM |
| 2:00PM  2:50PM | 2:40PM | 2:00PM  2:50PM | 2:40PM | 2:00PM  2:50PM |
| 2:50PM | 2:50PM |
| 3:00PM  3:50PM |  | 3:00PM  3:50PM |  | 3:00PM  3:50PM |
| 4:00PM  4:50PM | 4:05PM | 4:00PM  Team Practice Block (Athletics)  4:50PM | 4:05PM | 4:00PM  Team Practice Block (Athletics)  4:50PM |
| 4:15PM | 4:15PM |
| 5:00PM  5:50PM | 5:30PM | 5:00PM  5:50PM | 5:30PM | 5:00PM  5:50PM |

**OPTION 2.a Things to Consider**

1. Potential for students to finish all courses earlier in the day by taking longer sections during the morning
   1. Allows one longer 3-hour block for Friday mornings that starts later in the day and runs until noon
   2. Combines structure from our current schedule to be more uniform across each day
   3. In addition to finishing all courses earlier in the day, provides the opportunity to free up Friday for many students
      1. Reduces the number of missed classes for athletes, more free time for students to engage with other campus activities, jobs, etc.
2. A later start time on Friday morning for a 3-hour course might increase enrollment for long-format courses rather than an evening course
   1. Allows faculty to gauge student interest in long-format courses and schedule for evening courses vs. day
3. Activity hour is later in the day on Monday and Wednesday, which might be detrimental to some students, but possibly more useful for faculty planning their meetings
4. This afternoon structure means that any athletes with M/W/F classes would likely run into conflicts later in the day
5. Having the block for Athletics at the end of each day would allow for 192 sections of 75-minute instruction and 72 sections of 50-minute instruction, totaling 264 total sections available throughout the week (excluding Friday 3-hour block).

**OPTION 2.b M/W/F & T/TH with 3-unit blocks and Biweekly Afternoons**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|  | 7:45AM |  | 7:45AM |  |
| 8:00AM  8:50AM |  | 8:00AM  8:50AM |  | 8:00AM  8:50AM |
| 9:00AM  9:50AM | 9:00AM | 9:00AM  9:50AM | 9:00AM | 9:00AM  9:50AM |
| 9:10AM | 9:10AM |
| 10:00AM  Activity Hour  10:50AM | 10:25AM | 10:00AM  Activity Hour  10:50AM | 10:25AM | 10:00AM  Activity Hour  10:50AM |
| 10:35AM | 10:35AM |
| 11:00AM  11:50AM | 11:50AM | 11:00AM  11:50AM | 11:50AM | 11:00AM  11:50AM |
| 12:00PM | 12:00PM  Activity Hour | 12:00PM | 12:00PM  Activity Hour | 12:00PM |
| 1:15PM | 1:15PM | 1:15PM | 1:15PM | 3-hour Block |
| 1:25PM | 1:25PM | 1:25PM | 1:25PM |
| 2:40PM | 2:40PM | 2:40PM | 2:40PM | 3:00PM |
| 2:50PM | 2:50PM | 2:50PM | 2:50PM |
|  |  |  |  | 3:10PM |
| 4:05PM | 4:05PM | 4:05PM | 4:05PM | 3-hour Block |
| 4:15PM | 4:15PM | 4:15PM | 4:15PM |
| 5:30PM | 5:30PM | 5:30PM | 5:30PM | 6:10PM |

**OPTION 2.b Things to Consider**

1. Students who want to have M/W/F courses can still have them in the morning
2. This schedule allows for 2 larger blocks on Friday as opposed to having 1 in the morning
3. Each day ends at 5:30pm except for Friday, which ends at 6:10pm.
4. Activity hour can easily be held at the same time as it currently is
5. Athletes will likely never take a Friday afternoon 3-hour block course. This will limit the number of courses that can be offered on Friday afternoons.
6. If students are trying to take courses twice per week, they will be forced to be here later in the day rather than the morning