

Faculty Assembly Meeting 10-19-93 - excerpt

IV. Change in Class/Meeting Modules

Charles Herlands reported that the proposal by Elaine Ingulli had been divided by the Administration and Finance Committee (with the agreement of the Steering Committee) into two proposals. The first proposal recommended changing the class module days from MWF and TR to some other configuration. The second recommended changing the meeting module from 4:30 TR to 12:30 MWF, starting all class days at 8:15, and adding a 4:15-6:05 TR class module. Gregory Fink, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, moved the second proposal. Mary Ann Trail seconded the motion. Fink reported that the Administration and Finance Committee endorsed the proposal unanimously. David Burdick asked if the committee had considered the effect that not holding classes during the middle of the day would have on the College facilities. Would the College be able to cope with so many students on campus, but not in classes? Elaine Ingulli responded that students could use and needed a period in which they might meet for their own activities, and argued that this proposal was more equitable in that faculty who teach on MWF are currently often required to be on campus five days per week, while those who teach on TR need to report to campus only two days per week. This was especially onerous to faculty who lived some distance from campus and taught on MWF. She expressed flexibility about how the meeting module might be incorporated into the MWF schedule. Fred Mench suggested that starting classes at 8:15 might prove difficult for students who must get children to school before coming to campus. Paul Lyons endorsed the proposal, but recognized that Mench's point was well taken and doubted that students would use the meeting module for club activities. He encouraged the investigation of other arrangements for a MWF meeting module. Lynn Stiles pointed out that Physics classes began at 7:45, and that 8:00 classes were popular in the summer. Furthermore, Physics already uses the time period of the proposed new meeting module in the manner suggested by the proposal (i.e., as a time for meetings and special events). This has been quite valuable to Physics. The proposal would therefore require some rearrangement in the Physics schedule. Marilyn Vito recalled that classes used to begin at 8:00, and suggested that students would simply have to work around the 8:15 meeting time. Secondly, as once a non-traditional student at Stockton she thought a free block of time would be useful for non-traditional students to get together with other students. Harry Benson reported that the Computer Club Officers thought it would be a good idea, and that it would help the club. Joseph Walsh asked if this had been discussed with the Administration. Gregory Fink stated that the Administration was aware of the proposal and had offered no objections to it. Walsh stated that while he thought a meeting time for students was a good idea, a perfectly equitable schedule was impossible, and that the addition of another TR meeting module might be counterproductive in that it might increase the number of faculty members and students maintaining a TR only schedule. John Sinton expressed concern that this would pose serious problems for scheduling in the Natural Sciences. Raymond Mueller confirmed this by pointing out that the proposed schedule had no periods for lab meetings, and that there were fewer large blocks of time available, thus limiting the number of modules for the sciences. Fink argued that the number of class modules and meeting modules were unchanged by the proposal, and that the advantages and disadvantages were "a wash." Bess Kathrins noted that the block of unscheduled time for students attending classes at the hospital would not leave them sufficient time to return to RSC, hence a body of students would be left stranded at the hospital, taxing its facilities. Barbara Byrne clarified and

confirmed the scheduling difficulty for NAMS, noting that starting the MWF meeting module at 3:35 would not resolve all of the problems.. She suggested that it might mean fewer sections of some courses could be offered, but that some satisfactory arrangement could probably be worked out. Lucinda Jassel emphasized the significance of the proposal's problems for women with other responsibilities, and urged that if the proposal is adopted, it should be fashioned in a manner that would address these needs. Richard Colby suggested that the meeting module could be reduced to an hour and fifteen minutes, avoiding the need to start class at 8:15, and that classes could be convened by adjuncts during that time so that significantly fewer students would be unoccupied. Eileen Crane acknowledged that the new schedule would pose a problem for NAMS, but that it could be resolved. Robert Helsabeck asked if there might be a general agreement in favor of moving the meeting module to MWF, and that if so a committee could be set up to refine the idea. Louise Sowers agreed with Helsabeck, and suggested that the Assembly needed to work with the administration on this. Gregory Fink and Mary Ann Trail agreed to a substitute motion that the meeting module be moved to MWF, that it be placed earlier in the day than 4:30, and that it be referred to a committee to work out the details. William Gilmore-Lehne asked that since the question couldn't possibly be resolved in an Assembly meeting, a list of objections should be drawn up, possibly eliciting comments from each program, and distributed to the faculty. Fink clarified that the committee identified in the substitute motion should consist of members of the Administration and Finance Committee, the Administration, NAMS, and the Physical Therapy Program. The substitution motion passed by a vote of 18-16.