

FacultyLine

Office of the University Faculty, 138 Fawcett Hall (937) 775-2039
Faculty Line #211, September 7, 2011

Welcome back to the start of what will be our last academic year on quarters at Wright State University.

Time Blocks – We will be experiencing a number of noticeable changes to our schedules as we make the transition to semesters next fall. Not only will our summer be shorter by about two weeks but the starting and ending times of classes will be changing as well.

In November of 2009 the Faculty Senate approved a set of time blocks for semester classes that will go into effect next fall. As part of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee report at our first Faculty Senate meeting next Monday, I will be presenting an alternative set of time blocks (<http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/documents/Senatetimeblocks-1.ppt>). The main differences between the alternative and the approved time blocks are: MWF classes would begin at 8:00 AM rather than 7:25 AM; TTh classes would begin at 9:00 AM rather than 8:30 AM; night classes would end at 9:00 PM rather than 10:00 PM; and evening classes would begin at 4:40 PM rather than 4:10 PM.

When the approved time blocks were being considered by the Faculty Senate, it was generally understood that the 7:25 AM time block on MWF would not be heavily utilized. But, planning schedules now indicate that it will be very heavily used. Given that some department chairs are already beginning to make teaching assignments for the fall of 2012, I am asking that the Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Policies (UCAP) Committee of the Faculty Senate consider the alternative time blocks so that they can bring a recommendation to the Faculty Senate as new business at its October meeting (and perhaps to suspend the rules at that point so that the Senate can vote on a motion on the proposed changes).

The start and end times of classes has a significant impact on all of us and our students. It seems to me that the alternative time blocks are clearly superior to the currently approved time blocks for both faculty and students. But, it might be worth also considering the addition of a 7:30 to 8:50 AM class on TTh to the alternative time blocks – even if such a time block was hardly ever used it might be better perceived by the general public and could have beneficial implications for the daytime utilization hours reported to the Ohio Board of Regents and be used to support new campus construction. If you have questions or concerns about the alternative time blocks that will be brought up at Monday's Faculty Senate meeting, please share them with me

(Dan.Krane@wright.edu) and/or the chair of the UCAP Committee, Professor Tom Sav (Tom.Sav@wright.edu).

Upcoming Events – The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2011 academic year will be held on Monday, September 12 at 2:15 PM in E156 of the Student Union. All are very welcome to attend. An agenda for the meeting can be found at:
<http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/SenAgnSept11.pdf>

The University Convocation will be held on Tuesday, September 13 in the Student Union. President Hopkins will give his State of the University Address and present Faculty Awards at 2:00 PM. Faculty presentations showcasing the activities of each of the Colleges at Wright State will run from 3:00 to 5:30 PM. A Community Reception will take place between 5:30 and 6:45 PM, followed by a Presidential Lecture at 7:00 PM from Dr. Barbara Holland, a community transformation expert. Please try to attend.

Faculty Governance – These have been and will continue to be challenging times for the faculty at Wright State as we work our way through the transition to semesters, establishment of a new budget model (Resource Centered Management, RCM), the negotiation of a new contract between AAUP-WSU and the administration, and the public debate over Senate Bill 5. I will be asking all Faculty Senators and especially those who represent their Colleges on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to do their best to keep an open line of communication with their constituents. Please take a moment to look at the current list of Faculty Senators at <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senators/> and do not hesitate to send any comments, suggestions or concerns about our work toward “transforming the lives of our students and the communities we serve” to them, the Faculty Office (Pam.Zambenini@wright.edu; 775-2039) or directly to me (Dan.Krane@wright.edu; 775-2257).

I hope that everyone had a great summer!

Dan Krane

Faculty President