

Class Schedule To Change In 2013

Faculty Say New Schedule Will Reduce Course Conflicts

By Jay Weiler

The tuition reset is not the only significant change that Concordia students will see next year. Starting next semester, classes at Concordia will shift from a horizontal class schedule to a blocked schedule.

The new model passed by the Faculty Senate contains eleven time slots for classes. All classes will take place in one of these eleven slots with selected times for meetings and labs (see figure).

•Four-credit classes will meet for 65 minutes of the slot on Mon/Wed/Fri or 90 minutes of the slot on Tue/Thu.

•Three-credit classes will meet for 50 minutes of the slot on Mon/Wed/Fri or 75 minutes of the slot on Tue/Thu.

•Two- and one-credit classes will be expected to find a “sister” class to occupy the corresponding block on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

•Advanced science and art courses requiring labs will be able to hold their lectures on Mon/Wed/Fri, and meet for the corresponding lab period on either Tuesday or Thursday.

A number of issues led to the proposed schedule change. The largest problem with the current model of scheduling is that there is a distinct shortage of classroom space during the 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 1 p.m. class periods. Additionally, many classes were not conforming to the schedule which led to overlapping periods and increased course conflicts.

The new schedule increases the number of time slots overall, allows for more class periods before sports practices and music rehears-

als, eliminates overlapping classes, and facilitates in efficiently using all classrooms throughout the week.

The proposed change caused immediate concern among the Student Senate, who felt that the proposal contained a handful of flaws. In a document adopted on Nov. 28, 2012, the Student Senate lists a number of concerns that they find with the proposed schedule. Among these concerns are the loss of class time for four-credit classes, a decreased number of available meeting times, and the potential for students to be unable to both attend morning worship and eat lunch. Student Body President Kyle Sorkness feels that placing meeting times during sports and performing arts activities will be especially detrimental to involvement on campus. “While the proposed changes will fix the classroom shortage problem, we are concerned that they will still have some negative effects on students,” Sorkness said. “Making it even harder for students to be a part of things will probably not be good for the university as a whole.”

Despite the concerns, the new schedule will alleviate the issues it was meant to resolve. Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee Chair Dr. Mark Schuler sees the upside outweighing any potential negatives. “It gets rid of overlapping, it allows us to stop holding classes in odd rooms, and it is an advantage to grow many programs,” Dr. Schuler said. “All of these are significant things that need to happen if enrollment is to increase.”

