

May 24, 2011

SUSAN GILLMAN
Academic Senate Chair

Dear Susan,

Re: Course Time Slot Changes

I write to ask for the Academic Senate’s advice regarding a proposed change in the campus’s course time slots. For the past few months, the VPDUE office has been exploring ways of augmenting the campus’s course time slots. The principle goal is to make it possible to mount more courses (especially large courses) each quarter. A secondary goal is to bring our campus into conformity with the other UC campuses.

After examining a variety of possibilities, the EVC supports reducing the campus’s class time from 210 minutes per week to 180 minutes per week. Currently, a typical 5-unit class meets for 210 minutes per week, either in three 70 minute sessions (MWF) or two 105 minute sessions (MW or TTh). This allows for a total of 15 time slots each quarter: 8 slots on MWF and 7 on TTh.

A reduction in class times to 180 minutes per week (three 60 minute sessions on MWF or two 90 minute sessions MW or TTh) would allow for a total of 18 time slots each quarter: 10 slots on MWF and 8 on TTh. Classes that meet one time per week would not be affected by the change, as they already meet for 180 minutes per week.

Current Timing (70 min)	
210 minutes/week	
42 minutes/week/unit	
MWF	TTH
8 time slots	7 time slots
8:00-9:10a	8:00-9:45a
9:30-10:40a	10:00-11:45a
11:00-12:10p	12:00-1:45p
12:30-1:40p	2:00-3:45p
2:00-3:10p	4:00-5:45p
3:30-4:40p	6:00-7:45p
MW	8:00-9:45p
5:00-6:45p	
7:00-8:45p	

If we shorten class periods to **60** minutes, schedule capacity will increase by **3** courses.



60 min Timing	
180 minutes/week	
36 minutes/week/unit	
MWF	TTH
10 time slots	8 time slots
8:00-9:00a	8:00-9:30a
9:15-10:15a	9:45-11:15a
10:30-11:30a	11:30-1:00p
11:45-12:45p	1:15-2:45p
1:00-2:00p	3:00-4:30p
2:15-3:15p	4:45-6:15p
3:30-4:30p	6:30-8:00p
4:45-5:45p	8:15-9:45p
MW	
6:00-7:30p	
7:45-9:15p	

Currently, UCSC has the highest in-class minutes per course unit in the UC system: 42 minutes per unit, as compared to 37.5 minutes per unit at most of the other campuses. If UCSC were to adopt the new time slots, it would put the campus at 36 minutes per unit, almost identical to the other UCs.

UC Campus	Earliest Class	Class Duration by Frequency			Units/ Course	Units to Graduate	Recomm- ended Units/Qtr	Mini- mum Units/ Qtr	Class Minutes per Unit/Wk
		3x - wk	2x - wk	1x - wk					
UCSC	8:00am	70	105	180	5	180	15	12	42
UCLA	8:00am	50	75	110	4-5	180	15	13	30-37.5
UCI	8:00am	50	80	110	4	180	15	12	37.5
UCR	7:10am	50	80	110	4	180	16	12	37.5
UCD	8:00am	50	80	110	4	180	15	13	37.5
UCSB	8:00am	50	75	110	4	180	15	12	37.5
UCSD	8:00am	50	80	120	4	180	15	12	37.5

The addition of 3 extra time slots would increase the campus's classroom capacity by 20 percent, allowing for more scheduling flexibility. It will especially help ease the campus's shortfall of large lecture halls.

Name	Capacity	Name	Capacity
Classroom Unit 2	472	Thim 001	103
Media Theater M110	382	Stev 175	90
Humanities Lecture 206	301	Kresge 327	90
Earth & Marine B206	268	Eight Acad 240	84
Thim Lecture 003	231	Nat Sci Annex 101	84
Jack Baskin Aud 101	207	Soc Sci 2, Rm 075	77
Oakes Acad 105	175	Soc Sci 1, Rm 110	76
Classroom Unit 1	172	Soc Sci 2, Rm 071	76
Jack Baskin 152	147	Physic Sci 110	76
Kresge 321	145	Physic Sci 114	75
Steve acad 150	138	Porter Acad 144	64
Merrill 102	116	Cowell 131	58

Work-load issues for all courses in the UC system are governed by Academic Senate Regulation 760 (<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/manual/rpart3.html#r760>): "The value of a course in units shall be reckoned at the rate of one unit for three hours' work per week per term on the part of a student, or the equivalent." It does not specify what percentage of this work load must be accomplished in the classroom.

If this proposal is implemented, faculty would need to a) adjust their lectures to the shorter class times, and b) increase their non-classroom assignments (readings, papers, etc.) by 30 minutes per week.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Cioc". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mark Cioc
Interim Vice Provost and Dean
of Undergraduate Education