

Background:

The Department of Psychological Science fully embraces the concept of shared governance as defined by AAUP—ensuring meaningful faculty participation in institutional governance. The AAUP Committee on College and University Governance emphasizes the importance of faculty involvement in personnel decisions, selection of administrators, preparation of budget, and determination of educational policies.

Shared governance means those involved in an institution share in the key decision-making processes, understand what developments are taking place, and participate as partners. To accomplish this, good communication is essential.

Scheduling of classes is most certainly a significant part of educational policy and affects the quality of pedagogy, retention, graduation, and the experience of our students at CCSU. Scheduling decisions should be made in the spirit of shared governance. Major changes in scheduling merit input from the faculty, as we are the ones who directly instruct and educate our students.

During the fall 2014 semester, the schedule was sent to the departments and after we completed our schedule spending a significant number of hours to do so, we received a directive from the Dean's office telling us that we needed to have 15-20% of all classes meeting on Fridays during the fall semester. The fact that this directive came down at the last minute without input from the faculty is not in the spirit of shared governance.

Resolution:

Given our concerns about the welfare of our students, graduation, retention, student success, and relevant and appropriate pedagogy, we request that

- The major changes in scheduling being proposed at this time be postponed until appropriate shared governance decisions can be made.

- Faculty Senate form an ad hoc fact finding committee consisting of 5-7 teaching faculty to monitor the nature of the changes that are being proposed, assess the impact of the proposed changes, discuss the consequences, inform the teaching faculty, generate conversation, and make recommendations about the most effective changes to the teaching faculty.

- Discussions regarding scheduling be a part of faculty-admin shared governance, and occur only after appropriate information about why these changes are merited to the faculty who directly instruct and educate our students.