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Assessment News

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St. Norbert College

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# INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Volume 3, Issue 6

April 5, 2004

## ASSESSMENT NEWS *Special Edition*

### New Course Sequence Survey Findings Released

Tables summarizing faculty, staff, and student satisfaction with the current course schedule were conveyed to the Committee on Curriculum and Educational Policy on March 23, 2004. Seventy faculty, 16 staff, and 371 students returned the survey. The data are presented for community interpretation and discussion in this special edition of *Assessment News*.

#### Summary

In general, the data suggest relatively high levels of satisfaction with the new course sequence schedule. A number of findings are worth noting, however. More students (49% overall, 62% of students who experienced the old schedule) than faculty (28%) or staff (25%) agree or strongly agree that the new course sequence schedule has extended their day. About a third of students who attended classes under the old system believe students are missing more classes. While fac-

ulty (60%) and juniors/seniors (62%) agree or strongly agree that the new schedule is better than the old, only 38% of staff and 46% of students overall believe this is true.

Social Science Faculty (63%) more often agree or strongly agree that committee meetings are harder to schedule. Almost two-thirds of faculty said that having more class options has improved their teaching, but only about one-third agree or strongly agree that the K, L & M sequences are viable options. One-third of staff agree or strongly agree that the new course schedule has had a negative impact on service to students. Natural Science Faculty (50%) more often agree or strongly agree that faculty are spending less time on campus under the new schedule and more often (55%) note time conflicts among required courses. More than half of students responding (52% overall, 70% of juniors/seniors) also noted more time conflicts among required courses.

The Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee will be discussing these data in the next several weeks.

### Student and Faculty New Course Sequence Survey: Faculty

Common Questions	Faculty					Staff	Students				
	Hum.	Nat Sc.	Soc Sc.	Voted No	Overall	Overall	Overall	Hum.	Nat Sc.	Soc Sc.	Jrs. & Srs.
New schedule has extended my day	31%	17%	33%	42%	28%	25%	49%	51%	36%	52%	62%
Common Prayer is scheduled at best time	53%	64%	56%	32%	54%	75%	60%	62%	56%	58%	48%
Are enough 50 minute options in new schedule	61%	42%	75%	26%	61%	25%	62%	69%	73%	56%	51%
Are enough 70 minute options in new schedule	54%	83%	63%	53%	61%	38%	78%	82%	83%	75%	78%
Students seem to be missing more classes	14%	8%	7%	32%	12%	19%	23%	21%	18%	24%	31%
Floater times are confusing	38%	8%	44%	37%	33%	56%	21%	22%	22%	21%	21%
On balance, new schedule better than the old	65%	50%	63%	26%	60%	38%	46%	46%	32%	47%	62%

  

Faculty/Staff only Questions	Faculty					Staff
	Hum.	Nat Sc.	Soc Sc.	Voted No	Overall	Overall
More time for scholarship because of new sched.	36%	33%	44%	21%	38%	0%
Committee meetings harder to schedule now	43%	33%	63%	74%	49%	50%
Easier to get classroom I need for best teaching	32%	8%	38%	16%	27%	6%
Advisees can construct viable schedule	73%	83%	63%	58%	76%	31%
Teaching schedule better now than before	54%	50%	56%	26%	53%	6%
More class meeting option improved teaching	62%	50%	75%	32%	62%	0%
Harder to schedule time to meet students	38%	36%	13%	42%	32%	40%
K, L, & M sequences are viable options	41%	8%	19%	32%	32%	47%
Labs now easier to schedule	8%	42%	6%	16%	16%	0%
Harder to schedule practice or rehearsals	16%	0%	6%	26%	10%	25%
Would always teach in morning if I could	38%	25%	38%	42%	36%	6%
New schedule negative impact on service to students	17%	0%	6%	21%	10%	33%
Would teach a 6:00-9:30 course meets once/week	38%	25%	75%	26%	41%	13%
New schedule negative impact on my child care	0%	0%	13%	5%	3%	0%
Faculty seem to spend less time on campus now	22%	50%	25%	61%	28%	19%
Seem to be more time conflicts among req. courses	28%	55%	31%	68%	32%	31%
Favored new schedule when passed	54%	50%	69%	0%	57%	63%

  

Subsample sizes:	
Overall Faculty =	70
Hum. Faculty =	37
Nat. Sc. Faculty =	12
Soc. Sc. Faculty =	16
Voted No Faculty =	19
Staff =	16
Overall Students =	371
Hum. Students =	90
Nat. Sc. Students =	41
Soc. Sc. Students =	165
No Div. Response	75
Jr. & Sr. Students =	151

Student only Questions	Overall	Hum.	Nat Sc.	Soc Sc.	Jrs. & Srs.
I have adequate time to study or work	78%	76%	81%	77%	73%
Meetings easy to schedule now	70%	67%	73%	71%	59%
Difficult to construct course sched. w/ new sequence	39%	41%	42%	41%	48%
Now harder to find time to meet professors	33%	41%	34%	28%	37%
Keep K, L, and M sequences in future schedule	33%	29%	20%	36%	32%
Labs at convenient times under new schedule	43%	34%	68%	42%	33%
Current schedule makes internships difficult	21%	17%	15%	27%	30%
Practice or rehearsals more difficult to schedule	26%	28%	34%	25%	30%
Would take all classes in morning, if possible	62%	65%	65%	59%	57%
Can take full advantage of campus service now	70%	72%	63%	70%	59%
Would be willing to take 6:00-9:30 class once/week	33%	27%	32%	36%	37%
Seems more time conflicts among required crses. now	52%	62%	55%	53%	70%

### On-Campus Assessment Workshop Opportunity

St. Norbert College will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop on *Assessment of General Education and Values in Higher Education* on April 15-16, 2004 at the Bemis Center.

Through an active learning experience participants will be able to address and facilitate the assessment of student learning outcomes in general education programs. Specific objectives include a) learning the mission-oriented context in which general education programs reside, and the need for assessing the learning outcomes resulting from student experiences,

b) understanding the types of learning outcomes that are commonly associated with general education programs and ways to assess these learning outcomes, and c) examining processes that ensure that the results of assessment efforts are used to revise and improve an institution's general education programs.

The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. James Nichols, author of four widely used books on higher education assessment, and Dr. Eliot Elfner, Professor of Business Administration at St. Norbert College. The OIE will pay the registration fee for any SNC faculty or staff who wishes to attend this conference. Online registration and additional information is available at [Http://www.snc.edu/pce/assessment.html](http://www.snc.edu/pce/assessment.html).

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### Apply now for Assessment Mini-Grants

Mini-grants of approximately \$3,000 are available. Funds may support any of the following assessment activities:

- Carrying out one or more elements of an academic discipline or student life program assessment plan
- Data analysis or report writing
- Elaborating, revising, or developing a discipline or program assessment plan
- Acquiring, administering, or scoring assessment instruments
- Enhancing expertise regarding student outcomes assessment

A copy of the "Request for Funds to Support Assessment Activities" is available on the OIE website: [www.snc.edu/oie](http://www.snc.edu/oie) or by contacting Pat Wery (x3855) in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.



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