

Subject: Recommendation on Common Periods for Meetings and Activities

Date: Approved by the University Senate – March 27, 2019

The University Senate Recommends:

1. The Administration reinforce (i) the priority of the specific meetings listed in the Schedule of Meetings, on their respective particular dates and times within the Wednesday Meeting Period, and, moreover, that (ii) no class meetings should be scheduled to overlap the Wednesday Meeting Period.

While other meetings may be scheduled during a Meeting Period, organizers of such meetings should be cognizant of the designated primary meetings in a given Meeting Period, and should avoid creating time conflicts for participants in the designated primary meetings.

2. Establishment of a separate, weekly Common Academic Period, of not less than 90 minutes, for colloquia, seminars, workshops, performances, etc., as venues for the presentation of research, scholarship, and creative work.

To enable participation in, and attendance at, these events, no class meetings would be scheduled to overlap the Common Academic Period.

Organizers of administrative and service activities scheduled during the Common Academic period would, in scheduling such meetings, avoid creating conflicts for those interested in attending the academic events and performances for which the Period is designated.

Background and Rationale

The current extended daily schedule of class meetings (from early morning to late night, excepting Wednesday afternoon), while serving many important ends, leads to difficulties in the scheduling of activities related to research, scholarship and creative work, which play an essential role in developing the University as a vibrant academic and artistic community. As the only block of time without courses scheduled, the current Wednesday meeting period is already heavily scheduled, not only with the meetings that appear on the Schedule of Meetings, but also with other meetings, as well as some academic and artistic events. Members the University Community are often faced with time conflicts among meetings and/or events scheduled during the single weekly block with no class meetings.