

Night Bell Schedule

In trying to coordinate broadcasting of courses from the main campus to Hurricane, I knew there would be a problem with bell schedule. In Hurricane, we have found that it is very helpful to schedule a 4 credit course for two days a week starting at 4p and ending at 5:40p. We then offer a 3 credit hour class (one night) from 6-8:30. This is especially helpful as some of our students drive from as far away as Springdale and this helps them be able to get off work and still take a night class. It also helps in the drive home and not to arrive so late. It also allows a student to schedule two courses each night of the week if they choose. We have polled students in prior semesters and they like the time frame so we have continued. They appreciate the hour to get off work and grab something to eat and get into “school” mode. This has not interfered with the main campus practice as the student couldn’t drive and take two classes anyway. I’m speaking in generalities. Of course this would not apply in every case but enough that we have paid attention to those needs in Hurricane. This has also been helpful for students driving to Hurricane for courses that better fit their schedule. It is also better for faculty as many of them hold full time jobs until 5p and they have to get off work and make it to class as well.

I was not going to recommend everyone change to the Hurricane schedule. My first thought was adapting to the main campus schedule but I came across some interesting facts with regards to scheduling. As I reviewed the night courses offered on the main campus for this semester where a bell schedule used to exist with the 5-7:20p and 7:30-9:50 dividing lines, there are only 5 courses that begin at 7:30p. Clearly, by practice, we have found that at least pushing back the starting time from 5 to 5:15 and ending class at 7:45p allows the working student a better chance at taking a course. Clearly the 2 course per night theory is not working although we do have a selection of 8p courses the majority of which are Art. This leads me to believe that perhaps the courses could be broadcast at a 6p time instead of 5:15 if the faculty are willing.

5:00	15 courses
5:10	1 course
5:15	68 courses (most ending at 7:45 unless they are two nights a week)
5:30	10 courses
6:00	19 courses (including Hurricane)
6:15	1 lab
6:30	3 courses
6:35	1 course
6:40	1 lab
7:15	1 Lab
7:30	5 courses
8:00	12 courses

So as I am pursuing participation in broadcasting some offerings from the main campus to Hurricane, I am encouraging the start time to be moved to 6p. This has involved some emails saying but “what about the bell schedule.” I thought about asking forgiveness but decided on the permission route. I think the 6p time has some value.

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