

SCC Eight Week Schedule Shared Governance Plan

Prepared by the SCC Strategic Scheduling Committee

Introduction

Scottsdale Community College is strongly considering moving to a predominantly eight-week class schedule. There is a great deal of research suggesting that short term eight-week courses increase student retention and success while allowing better enrollment flexibility. However, shorter term courses are more intense and traditionally not the norm so the potential change has challenges. Scottsdale Community College will seek to have an open dialogue about the potential change within the campus community.

Initial Steps Underway

Currently, faculty leaders have embarked on a SWOT analysis by soliciting feedback on an eight-week class schedule from faculty representing every academic division and department throughout the organization. The feedback will be synthesized and presented to the SCC Faculty Senate for summary and discussion. Subsequently, SCC Administrators (President, VPAA, Academic Affairs Deans) will accept invitations to attend Faculty Senate meetings on February 18 and March 17 to discuss the SWOT analysis and its findings.

Proposed Additional Steps

Additionally, the SCC Scheduling Committee proposes that SCC host an Eight Week Class Schedule Dialogue Day in which SCC faculty and staff and can have frank discussions about the pros and cons of the potential change. Ideally, these discussions will be research based and address the varied issues with the proposed institutional change that effect teaching and learning and student success. The SCC Center for Teaching and Learning has graciously volunteered to coordinate the dialogue day.

The SCC Strategic Scheduling Committee also proposes (if SCC stakeholders ultimately agree that moving to an eight-week schedule is prudent) that an operational plan should be laid out which includes timelines, a rubric delineating what courses would be expected to make the change and under what circumstances courses would be exempt, and the appointment of a committee made up of faculty and administrators charged with making such decisions.