Flexible Academic Scheduling and Offerings

Planning and implementing an optimal class schedule to meet every student’s need for degree and certificate completion is challenging and requires a full campus effort. Through the interactions of deans, directors, chairs, faculty and the Office of Academic Affairs, all have worked diligently to enhance class scheduling to meet the changing needs of students.

Some of our accomplishments to date include:

- Increased established start times and meeting patterns in order to maximize student choice when registering for classes
- Reduced “non-standard” class sections that do not adhere to a standard meeting pattern, from 345 in Fall 2010, to 96 in Fall 2013, more than a 70% reduction
- Reduced “off pattern” sections between 2011 and 2014, from 382 to 84, nearly an 80% reduction. This benefits students by providing predictability of consistent class schedules, helping students manage their time

Student Success

In our Pathways to Student Academic Success initiative, we continue to see an improvement of college preparedness:

- For fall 2013, 33% of first-time full-time bachelor degree seeking students rank in the top 25% of their high school class
- Comparing fall 2013 to fall 2014 newly admitted students (as of Jan. 30th each year) the percentage of college-ready students has grown from 65% to 76% of total admitted students, a great indication of future college success and increased college completion rates. ACT scores have increased from 22.4 to 23.1, a significant increase

Academic Program Review

Academic program review creates an opportunity to assess the alignment of academic programs with the overall mission and vision of the University and in fact, is one component of our strategic plan, Vision 2020.
Over the last six years, faculty, college administration and the Office of Academic Affairs have worked diligently in this academic program review process for improved long-term goals and standards of the University.

To name a few of the accomplishments to date:

- The College of Creative and Professional Arts joined an expanded Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
- Geography and Geology collaborated to create a new Department of Geosciences
- Sports Science and Wellness Education is moving to the College of Health Professions
- The College of Arts & Sciences is working on a multidisciplinary degree to benefit students who may have accumulated credit hours without choosing a major
- Summit College has created a Certificate in Medical Encoding to increase students’ credentials for employment in a high demand discipline

Why do universities suspend or discontinue offering programs? Typically, it is due to a combination of outcomes such as:

- Demand and completion rates for the program
- Alignment with workforce needs
- Alignment with program offerings of other Ohio institutions

While the work of academic program review is not easy, it is essential for the improvement of academic offerings and ultimately, student success. We look forward to receiving Faculty Senate feedback on this important process. The Board of Trustees will review all academic program review recommendations before making their final endorsement in April 2014.