

Commentary

Phantasia

by Earl J. Moniz

Well, here we are again beginning another year of exciting academic endeavors on the campus of FSU. What excitement! What anticipation! What an administrative nightmare! Everyone that had difficulty preregistering, registering, and finding a permanent classroom say "Amen". Everyone that moved into the classroom without any problems whatsoever say "Thank God".

I am amazed that a university of such major league aspirations should hold such bush league mentalities. Preregistered students had to return to campus prior to the beginning of classes to prove their intentions of returning to school. Why would any student submit to the aggravation of preregistering and then not return? If a student on the official roll does not attend class for the first two days, isn't he or she automatically dropped from the rolls? Not so, according to the Chancellor. Some professors refuse to take roll at the beginning of each class session, or even for the first week or two of the semester. This policy could result in a person being given a grade at the end of the semester and not having attended a single class period. The solution to the problems caused by these professors unwilling to satisfactorily perform their jobs as they should is to place an additional burden on the students. Sounds perfectly logical to me, how about you?

Students who wait to register don't have an easy road to travel either. These students are faced with long lines waiting in all types of weather. FSU has no other method of registering other than showing up and doing it all in person. Absolutely no phone registration or mail-in registration, period. On one occasion, administrators were in the Chick building waiting for the official registration period to begin while the students waited in the rain for the doors to open. Was anyone considerate enough to open the doors early and let the students wait in the lobby out of the weather? Not here at FSU...that isn't the policy! Policies are created to make the administrators happy and to simplify their duties regardless of how inconvenient that policy is for the students. Universities aren't established for the convenience of the students!

The problems of registration didn't end there. Even once classes began, other difficulties persisted. Classroom difficulties will probably always exist until such a time as new classrooms and buildings are provided, or students get disgusted and transfer to other universities. I am amazed, however, that on a campus that is so computerized in most of its routine tasks and duties, that a class of 50 could be assigned to a classroom that seats only 30. Whatever computer system the university purchased to schedule classes and professors, a simple subroutine for the comparison of class accommodations and student assignment was overlooked and is now the consternation of many students and professors alike. Our

posters should proclaim to all "Education offered. Bring your own container...and desk!" This computerization is just another example of how computers are utilized to make the work in each individual administrative office easier for the administrators who work there and not to make it any easier for the students to register for class, attend class, or obtain information about their performance. I know that this is true because every office MUST have their own file for each student...interconnectivity is unheard of here.

How do I know this? Easy. If I need to submit or obtain something from the financial aid office, that is the ONLY place where I can do it. If I need to submit or obtain something from the registrar, that is the ONLY place where I can do it. If my mentors or advisors are trustworthy enough to help me make decisions that will influence the rest of my life, why can't they retrieve copies of my transcripts from the computer for me? Or just be able to view a screen of my financial aid award letter? Maybe the administration does not trust the faculty?

Enough complaining; how about a solution? One of the policies that exists here at FSU that may solve much of this confusion and frustration is the policy that a group of ten or more students may request a course at a convenient time. Utilizing this procedure, students can eliminate the wait for the normally incorrect and incomplete schedule to come out at the end of each semester. Many students in the same major could utilize this policy to hold classes

convenient for each of them on days and at times convenient for their group. Is the university here to serve the students or are the students to attend class at the convenience of the professors? Let's find out.

Here is my proposal. For the Spring of 93 semester I plan on taking ENGL 211 or ENGL 212 (World Literature), ENGL 231 (Advanced Grammar), SPEE 340 (Language Development), HIST 390 (N.C. History), and POLI 320 (State and Local Government). Since the ENGL courses could reasonably be expected to be conducted in the Butler Learning Center, I will request them on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I also do not like to come to class early or stay very late, so I will request them in sequence starting at 9 AM. This schedule puts me out of class at noon on those days.

The history and political science courses will probably be conducted in the Taylor Social Science building or the annex. I will request those on Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 9:30 AM. This schedule puts me out of class at 12:30 PM on those days.

Anyone interested in joining me in this experiment on school policy, just drop your name and phone number by room 121 in the Butler Learning Center with an indication of when you want each class to be conducted within the time periods stated above. You do not have to be interested in attending all of these classes. If you are only interested in participating in the history class on T-R, drop off your intent for either the 9:30 or 11:00 class. If you are only interested in the World Literature

class, drop off your name and number and indicate whether you would like to attend the 9, 10, or 11 AM class. Finally, if you have any recommendations about which professor to request for each class, include those names as well. I will request the times that are agreed upon by the majority of the names I receive and publish them here in the Bronco's Voice.

Once a reasonable amount of time has passed and I receive enough names to submit a request to the Registrar's Office, in any case, not any later than the end of October, I will submit a request documenting our interest in those classes at those times.

I would expect that some professors would appreciate this procedure as well. If we get 90 students for a single class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, we could send 30 to the 9 AM class, 30 to the 10 AM class, and 30 to the 11 AM class, all conducted by the same professor. If we do this in a round-robin fashion, three professors could teach 90 students in 3 hours and be done for the day. I think many professors would like this approach, instead of planning their day around some computer program that can't even assign a group of students to a room with enough chairs to seat everyone.

The classes indicated above are for a major in education at the middle grade level. Those of you in any other major offered here at FSU that are interested in attempting this procedure, stop by and see me in room 121 of the Butler Learning

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