

An Announcement from the President:

The WCCFT and the College Administration have come to an agreement regarding classes that are scheduled during the first Wednesday Common Hour of the month.

It is a violation of our contract to schedule any faculty responsibilities during the time that union membership meetings are held. But at most of WCC's extension sites, classes have been running during the Wednesday 11-1 time slot for many years. From time to time the problem was discussed between the union and the administration, but without any resolution.

Last fall several members, primarily adjuncts, contacted us, saying that they are disenfranchised in making union decisions since they are prevented by teaching responsibilities from attending meetings. The union leadership decided to try once again to negotiate a solution to the problem.

We are happy to report that the Continuing Education Division and the extension site directors were willing to work with us to solve the problem, and a solution has been found that we believe is a good one and is in the best interest of everyone. Here are the main provisions of the solution we agreed to, as it applies to the fall 2013 semester:

1. At Cross County and Peekskill there will be no classes during the first Wednesday common hour. Classes will either be scheduled for a different time or taught in a longer Wednesday period on the remaining weeks. The same is true for Ossining, except for one class with a long lab section.
2. Classes at Center for the Arts will remain as scheduled, but in the future no further classes will be scheduled during the union meeting time and no instructor who has not been regularly teaching at that time will be assigned to teach at that time.
3. Certain classes will remain at the union meeting time, including those at Mount Vernon, where it is difficult to change the schedule without a cascade of scheduling issues. But if an instructor wishes to have his or her assignment changed at Mt. Vernon or any of the sites because of a desire to attend union meetings, every effort will be made to reassign that instructor to a different class.
4. Similar provisions will be made for the spring 2014 semester. But in January of 2014, the union and the administration will revisit the situation to determine how well it is working for both sides.

I thank all of those who have commented on this issue. As always, I welcome further comments now that a resolution has been reached. You may email me at mel.bienenfeld@sunywccft.org for now, though soon you will be able to post a comment on the website.

Mel

Mel Bienenfeld, President