
Resolution on University Hour

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Inc. has proposed the establishment of a University Hour during which main campus, regular session classes would not be scheduled during Fall and Spring semesters; and

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Inc. presented several reasons for establishment of such a University Hour including

- Improving student retention,
- Increasing participation in co-curricular activities,
- Providing an opportunity for student programming, educational programming, department meetings, and a common time for students to participate in study groups and seek academic advising, and
- Several other CSU campuses have instituted a University Hour; and

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Inc. had indicated a strong preference for a University Hour closer to the noon hour; and

WHEREAS, the 2004-05 Academic Policy Committee examined the feasibility of implementing University Hour at CSUSM in terms of the impact on course schedules and classroom availability; concluded that such a proposal was feasible and recommended using the hour of 2 – 3 on Tuesdays and Thursdays (subsequently changed to 2:30-4:00 in discussions between Associated Students, Inc., Associate Vice President Barsky, and Academic Senate Chair Trischman); and

WHEREAS, a motion to waive the rules for a first reading of the Resolution in Support of the Implementation of a University Hour brought by Associated Students, Inc. to the May 4, 2005 Academic Senate failed for several reasons, which included concerns over

- The impact on 4-unit courses, especially in the afternoon and evening, and
- Demonstration of the effectiveness of University Hour; and

WHEREAS, it is equitable to have a University Hour available to students regardless of whether they are taking classes on a Monday-Wednesday(-Friday) or Tuesday-Thursday schedule, and

WHEREAS, the development of Fall class schedules begins in November in many academic departments; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate supports a two-year trial implementation of a University Hour in Academic Years 2006-07 and 2007-08 from 11:50 a.m. -12:50 p.m. on weekdays during which no main-campus, regular session, undergraduate classes (with the exception of laboratory courses¹ three or more hours in length) may be scheduled during Fall and

¹ For such laboratory courses, the pre-laboratory may be scheduled during University Hour.

Spring semesters (see attached recommended schedule for 75-minute and 110-minute class periods); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director of Institutional Planning and the Office of Institutional Research be asked to conduct a study of the effectiveness and impact of University Hour after Spring Break in the Spring 2007 semester with the study to include such factors as

- Measures of levels of co-curricular programming scheduled for University Hour (Is there sufficient programming to support an hour each day?),
- Measures of student involvement in University Hour (e.g., attendance at University Hour programming),
- Measures of parking availability throughout the week,
- Analysis of changes in time-of-day enrollment patterns throughout the week,
- Surveys of advising and administrative office to determine the impact (both positive and negative) of University Hour on their operations
- Surveys of library to determine the impact (both positive and negative) of University Hour on its operation
- Surveys of Department Chairs and Associate Deans to determine the impact (both positive and negative) of University Hour on academic scheduling and other aspects of the curriculum, and
- Surveys of faculty and students to determine the impact (both positive and negative) of University Hour, with baseline measurement of the first three factors to be obtained in Spring 2006; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the findings of this study be communicated to the Academic Senate and, in particular, the Academic Policy Committee prior to the start of the Fall 2007 semester and that the Academic Policy Committee be charged with reviewing this study and bringing to the Academic Senate for a first reading no later than the October 2007 meeting a recommendation that either

- University Hour be discontinued effective with the Fall 2008 semester, or
- University Hour be continued indefinitely, with or without modifications, or
- University Hour be continued on a trial basis for a fixed period time, at which point another study would be made to serve as the basis for a future recommendation.