


UC RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic Senate**
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

May 18, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: John S. Levin, Chair 
Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF)

Re: Report Review: Course Scheduling Policy Workgroup Report

The Committee on Academic Freedom considered “Report Review: Course Scheduling Policy Workgroup Report,” distributed April 25, 2018. The views of committee members indicated that there were no obvious direct effects based upon the scheduling policy report. However, concerns about potential indirect effects were raised by committee members. One concern pertained to inequitable lecture times embedded in the 2 day and 3 day patterns (160 minutes vs. 150 minutes). This concern noted that faculty would have to make compromises on curriculum. A second concern related to scheduling changes made to meet administrative requirements. A third concern focused upon effects of the offering of courses that were at times inconvenient for students and faculty. These concerns do suggest that teaching approaches might be compromised. A fourth concern picks up on one of the report’s findings: “Departments feel they lack sufficient control over scheduling, and perceive the overall scheduling process to be unfair and insufficiently respectful of departmental preferences.” Where individual faculty must alter their curriculum in order to fit differing time patterns for the same course (perhaps taught a year apart), then this may impinge upon faculty autonomy (and perhaps academic freedom in what and how to teach).