

Block Scheduling Focus Group/ Interview Notes: Student Workers (Student Services) & Welcome Center Students(18 participants)

prepared by AHLee

Students had strong agreement that they commonly experience overlap in class selection. When asked how they responded to this situation they answered the following:

- Taking a class at another Peralta college
- Enrolling in fewer units than originally planned
- Enrolling a class they didn't need for their educational goal because they needed units to maintain financial aid

After hearing a general description of block scheduling and seeing the matrix, students had a strong positive reaction. Generally they talked about how the following things would be "easy":

- Pick your classes quickly
- Creating a schedule that allows them to maximize their time as a student worker (3 students reported working in small increments between classes; 4 students said they can't get the full 20 hours of student employment because they commute to another campus)
- Creating a schedule that accommodates student needs off campus (ex. work and family).

I asked students what problems they thought might arise from block scheduling or what draw back would it have for them as a student? Students were unable to answer this question. They were excited with the prospect of block scheduling.

I also asked students for thoughts about the noon hour. How do they think they would use it?

- Eat lunch
- Study (individually or in groups)
- Meet to work on a group project. They said it was hard to find a time that for group projects because of student schedules (at COA and going to other campuses).
- See a counselor
- Go to Financial Aid
- Only a few students mentioned student life without prompting. When I did ask if they would get involved on campus they were unsure of existing opportunities. 4 students said that Laney seems to host noon-time activities and that COA could do similar events to get students involved.