

Town Hall Meeting
Thursday, August 2, 2018 12:15-1:00pm

In Attendance:

Approx 20 students,

Staff- Annie Yu, Yasuo Tanaka, Thomas Siemann, Robbyn Kawaguchi, Nishanga Bliss, Amy Chang, Kathryn Billet, Chelsea Broido, Peter Blackman, Dennis von Elgg.

Staff Update:

The Mr. Tanaka introduced new Academic Director, Thomas Siemann. Dr. Siemann was the Dean at the Oakland school for 5 years, and comes to us with a background in nursing and acupuncture.

Student Health Insurance:

The school will soon offer health insurance to new students. We had the option of also offering it to new students as well, but the results of the survey indicated that current students were not interested. Because enrollment is mandatory unless proof of insurance is provided, all students needed to agree in order for the plan to be offered to current students.

Student Question: Is there a way individual current students can sign up?

Response: Contact Mr. Tanaka

3 day Schedule

Draft of 3 day Winter schedule distributed

Created to give student more flexibility. There are still the same number of courses – 4th day is spread across other days. Not too many evening classes.

Student Question: Will we lose faculty?

Response: No changes in faculty are anticipated

Faculty comment: For years, it was only 3 days

Student Question: Why did it change to 4 days?

Response: At that time, the program was 300 hours more, so an extra day was needed to spread out the class time and workload.

Student Question: Why was the program reduced?

Response: We were way past accreditation requirements, which was costing students more time and money.

Student Question: Will there be a day designated for electives and/or other courses that don't have prerequisites?

Response: We haven't given that much thought since we no longer require electives. But I anticipate being able to fit those in with the 3 day schedule. Oakland has a model like that, where they have a summer term when those types of courses are run. Perhaps Thomas will have input if we go that route.

Student Question: How does this impact clinic?

Response: Now you will have entire days for clinic. Of course this means you could still have a term where you come to campus 5 days. But maybe the next term it will be only 3 days.

Student Question: Will there typically be breaks between classes where students can take on a clinic shift? Will someone have to attend class the entire day?

Response: We certainly will try to schedule it so no student has to attend class all day – that would be too much. It is very likely you will have an empty slot between certain classes. The new Clinic Director, Ken Morris will also have slots available for Level I students to shadow. This would be a new make-up opportunity.

Student suggestion: There is another school that already offers a 2 day schedule. Perhaps we need to focus on what makes us unique.

Survey

Kathy Woo, Student Council President, shared results of informal survey about 3 day schedule. There were mixed reactions on the survey. Admin stated that it would be helpful for students to also share their thoughts with the school. Only 20 students responded to the admin survey about the schedule, which is a small percentage

Student suggestion: it may help to put a deadline date by which to respond

Student question: How will this be decided?

Response: President Tanaka will ultimately make the decision, taking into consideration a number of factors, including the survey, admissions, etc.

Student Question: Will there be a way to see how this is going once implemented?

Response: Yes – we will monitor and accept feedback. And if there is something that is negatively impacted, then we will work around it. For example, schedule an intensive weekend workshop, or schedule a class on Monday for that one term, etc.

Student question: What about clinic? I'd like to see what the clinic shifts would look like on a 3 day schedule. It's hard to really know without having that information.

Response: We can try to put something together. Another concern is supervisor availability – if they are teaching 2 classes in row, will they be available for clinic after that? Katherine will check with instructors about this once didactic schedule finalized.