

**EKU Alternative Class Schedule  
Format Proposal Draft**

**By**

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## **Introduction**

I generated this proposal to address the issue raised in the March 2006 EKU Faculty Senate meeting. During the discussion in the EKU Faculty Senate, faculty members raised numerous issues related to academic scheduling. Those issues included pedagogy, research/service activity time, classroom scheduling/space, and parking. This proposal will address each previous point briefly. Additionally, I will provide different course scheduling alternatives, but I will readily claim that further investigation is needed to address this issue in a comprehensive and thorough manner.

## **Pedagogy**

The issue of pedagogy was presented at the Faculty Senate meeting. There were a variety of options regarding the issue of alternative course scheduling format.

Several EKU Faculty Senators raised significant pedagogical concerns regarding alternative scheduling. Senator Wolf (Music Department) noted that certain courses are well-suited to a two 75 minute class periods; however, Senator Wolf noted that music performance courses are not well suited to a two 75 minute class period format. Another faculty senator from another department raised pedagogical concerns on how an alternate schedule may affect instruction in that field.

Other faculty senators advocated for entertaining an alternative schedule format. Senator Dieckmann from the Earth Sciences Department articulated that an alternative scheduling format would permit science faculty to conduct field lab courses on a day that regular courses were not taught. Another faculty, including me, find a two 75 minute period more conducive to conduct courses that allows for a variety of instructional practices that are difficult to use in the three 50 minutes periods. Those instructional practices can include the use of in-class activities or informal labs, case study analysis, and other practices that may require a significant length of time to use these instructional practices without interruption.

There are advantages and disadvantages to considering alternative course scheduling formats. However, the fundamental question that should drive a discussion of alternative course scheduling formats is: What is the best pedagogical practice for the majority of academic departments and programs?

## **Research/Service Activities**

A second issue discussed during the EKU Faculty Senate meeting related to the alternative course scheduling issue was that there is not enough time available in the current course scheduling format to conduct research and service activities. One faculty member noted that the current course schedule does not facilitate the time necessary for department meetings and administrative activities that academic departments need to conduct. An alternative course-scheduling format may allow faculty members to use an instructional free day for research and/or service activities.

### **Classroom Scheduling and Capacity**

Another issue that was addressed during the Faculty Senate discussion of alternative course scheduling formats was classroom scheduling/space. Depending upon the structure of alternative course schedule format, it may not lead to a significant reduction in course time blocks or a significant adverse impact upon classroom space. However, if ECU decides to utilize an alternate course-scheduling format may require instruction to begin earlier in the day or end later in the instructional day.

### **Parking**

Another issue that was presented was how an alternative course-scheduling format may relieve parking concerns. An alternative course scheduling format that allows the vast of majority of students to enroll in one of two day course scheduling formats (MW or TR; MR or TF) may allow a more even distribution of students on campus across the academic week, and thus perhaps alleviate some parking concerns. However, any change of course-scheduling formats should not be driven exclusively by parking concerns.

### **Alternative Course Scheduling Formats**

There are four issues that are related to the issue of whether ECU should proceed with an alternative course-scheduling format, and those issues are pedagogy, research/service activity time, classroom scheduling/classroom capacity, and parking. Any alternative course scheduling format will need to address the previous issues with pedagogy being the primary issue and research/service activity time, classroom scheduling/space, and parking being secondary issues related to alternative course scheduling. There are two potential alternative course-scheduling formats described below along with graphics illustrating the two alternative course-scheduling formats on pages 4-6.

#### ***MW and TR Alternative Course Schedule Format***

The first alternative course-scheduling format is a Monday-Thursday academic week format with multiple options (see pages 5-11). If ECU decided to schedule courses on a Monday-Thursday academic week format with classes meeting on Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday, this may allow departments that have pedagogical concerns regarding having classes meet only on two days to conduct classes on Monday-Wednesday-Friday format with those courses beginning at the same time that the MW courses begin.

In addition, there are various evening course configurations. Colleges, departments, and programs could elect which option to utilize given the needs and wants of its late afternoon and evening students.

Furthermore, a potential instructional free day on Friday may allow for the following activities. College committees, university committees, departments could hold meetings these meetings on Fridays. If department, college, or university meetings are not planned on Fridays, then faculty could use this potentially instructional free day to conduct scholarly endeavors.

### MR and TF Alternative Course Schedule Format

The second alternative course-scheduling format is Monday-Friday academic week with Wednesday as an instructional free day. If EKU decided to implement this alternative course schedule, this would restrict the flexibility of departments or programs to conduct Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes. However, this alternative course schedule format may serve the majority of departments in terms of pedagogy and permitting faculty to use a variety of instructional strategies (informal labs, case-study analysis, simulations) that are difficult to use in a course scheduled in a MWF format.

The second alternative course-scheduling format also allows multiple evening course configurations. Colleges, departments, and programs could elect which option to utilize given the needs and wants of its late afternoon and evening students

Moreover, the second alternative course-scheduling format may allow for the following activities. College committees, university committees, departments could hold meetings these meetings on Wednesdays. If department, college, or university meetings are not conducted on Wednesdays, then faculty could use this potentially instructional free day to conduct scholarly endeavors.

### Conclusion

This alternative course-scheduling document is a draft. There are many issues that administrators, faculty, staff, and students will need to consider before the campus embraces any change in the course-scheduling format. Additionally, the university will need to collect survey data from different university constituencies (administrators, faculty, staff, and students) to answer the following questions:

- 1.) Is there a widespread dissatisfaction with the current course-scheduling format among different university constituencies?
- 2.) If there were a change in the current course-scheduling format, what alternative course-scheduling format would the different university constituencies desire (i.e. MW and TR, MR and TF course scheduling formats)?
- 3.) If different constituencies desire a change in the course-scheduling format, would different constituencies favor starting the academic day at 0700 or 0730 hours to accommodate an alternative course-scheduling format (MW and TR or MR and TF course scheduling formats)?
- 4.) If different constituencies desire a change in the course-scheduling format, would different constituencies favor ending the academic day later at 2145 or 2215 hours to accommodate an alternative course-scheduling format (MW and TR or MR and TF course scheduling formats)?
- 5.) If different constituencies desire a change in the course scheduling format, are different constituencies equally willing to entertain either teaching or taking courses in either 2 day course scheduling format (MW or TR; MR and TF)?

The previous questions are only a partial list of questions that are needed in any survey to determine the level of support in the university community for changing the current course-scheduling format to an alternative course-scheduling format.

However, the fundamental questions are: Will a change of course scheduling lead to better instructional outcomes and make course offerings more available to traditional and non-traditional students along with day and evening students? The previous questions should drive any discussion to change the course-scheduling format at Eastern Kentucky University.

**Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday Day Classes  
Starting at 0700 Hours**

**Option A: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1900 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0700-0815					
2		0830-0945					
3	2	1000-1115					
4		1130-1245					
5	3	1300-1415					
6		1430-1545					
7	4	1600-1715					
8		1730-1845					
E1	5	1900-2145					

**Option B: Two 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1600 and 1900 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0700-0815					
2		0830-0945					
3	2	1000-1115					
4		1130-1245					
5	3	1300-1415					
6		1430-1545					
E1	4	1600-1845					
E2	5	1900-2145					

**Option C: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1700, 1730, or 1800 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0700-0815					
2		0830-0945					
3	2	1000-1115					
4		1130-1245					
5	3	1300-1415					
6		1430-1545					
E1	4	1700-1945 or 1730-2015 or 1800-2045					

**Note: If logistically feasible, departments or colleges could select to start time for the evening course that best serves its students/clients.**

**Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday Day Classes  
Starting at 0700 Hours**

**Option A: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1900 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0700-0815					
2		0830-0945					
3	2	1000-1115					
4		1130-1245					
5	3	1300-1415					
6		1430-1545					
7	4	1600-1715					
8		1730-1845					
E1	5	1900-2145					

**Option B: Two 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1600 and 1900 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0700-0815					
2		0830-0945					
3	2	1000-1115					
4		1130-1245					
5	3	1300-1415					
6		1430-1545					
E1	4	1600-1845					
E2	5	1900-2145					

**Option C: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1700, 1730, or 1800 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0700-0815					
2		0830-0945					
3	2	1000-1115					
4		1130-1245					
5	3	1300-1415					
6		1430-1545					
E1	4	1700-1945 or 1730-2015 or 1800-2045					

**Note: If logistically feasible, departments or colleges could select the evening course start time that best serves its faculty, students, and staff.**

**Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday Day Classes  
Starting at 0730 Hours**

**Option A: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1930 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0730-0845					
2		0900-1015					
3	2	1030-1145					
4		1200-1315					
5	3	1330-1445					
6		1500-1615					
7	4	1630-1745					
8		1800-1915					
E1	5	1930-2215					

**Option B: Two 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1630 and 1930 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0730-0845					
2		0900-1015					
3	2	1030-1145					
4		1200-1315					
5	3	1330-1445					
6		1500-1615					
E1	4	1630-1915					
E2	5	1930-2215					

**Option C: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1700, 1730, or 1800 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0730-0845					
2		0900-1015					
3	2	1030-1145					
4		1200-1315					
5	3	1330-1445					
6		1500-1615					
E1	4	1700-1945 or 1730-2015 or 1800-2045					

**Note: If logistically feasible, departments or colleges could select the evening course start time that best serves its faculty, students, and staff.**

**Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday Day Classes  
Starting at 0730 Hours**

**Option A: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1930 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0730-0845					
2		0900-1015					
3	2	1030-1145					
4		1200-1315					
5	3	1330-1445					
6		1500-1615					
7	4	1630-1745					
8		1800-1915					
E1	5	1930-2215					

**Option B: Two 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1630 and 1930 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0730-0845					
2		0900-1015					
3	2	1030-1145					
4		1200-1315					
5	3	1330-1445					
6		1500-1615					
E1	4	1630-1915					
E2	5	1930-2215					

**Option C: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1700, 1730, or 1800 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0730-0845					
2		0900-1015					
3	2	1030-1145					
4		1200-1315					
5	3	1330-1445					
6		1500-1615					
E1	4	1700-1945 or 1730-2015 or 1800-2045					

**Note: If logistically feasible, departments or colleges could select the evening course start time that best serves its faculty, students, and staff.**

**Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday Day Classes  
Starting at 0800 Hours**

**Option A: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1830 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0800-0915					
2		0930-1045					
3	2	1100-1215					
4		1230-1345					
5	3	1400-1515					
6		1530-1645					
7		1700-1815					
E1	4	1830-2115					

**Option B: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1700, 1730, or 1800 hours**

	Lab Block	Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
1	1	0800-0915					
2		0930-1045					
3	2	1100-1215					
4		1230-1345					
5	3	1400-1515					
6		1530-1645					
E1	4	1700-1945 or 1730-2015 or 1800-2045					

**Note: If logistically feasible, departments or colleges could select the evening course start time that best serves its faculty, students, and staff.**

**Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday Day Classes  
Starting at 0800 Hours**

**Option A: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1830 hours**

	<b>Lab Block</b>	<b>Time/Day</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
1	1	0800-0915					
2		0930-1045					
3	2	1100-1215					
4		1230-1345					
5	3	1400-1515					
6		1530-1645					
7		1700-1815					
E1	4	1830-2115					

**Option B: One 3 Hour Evening Course Starting at 1700, 1730, or 1800 hours**

	<b>Lab Block</b>	<b>Time/Day</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
1	1	0800-0915					
2		0930-1045					
3	2	1100-1215					
4		1230-1345					
5	3	1400-1515					
6		1530-1645					
E1	4	1700-1945 or 1730-2015 or 1800-2045					

**Note: If logistically feasible, departments or colleges could select the evening course start time that best serves its faculty, students, and staff.**

**Inclement Weather Delay Schedule Given  
The Academic Day Normally Begins at 0700 Hours**

	<b>Lab Block</b>	<b>Regular Time/Day</b>	<b>Delay Time/Day</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>F</b>
1	1	0700-0815	1000-1050					
2		0830-0945	1100-1150					
3	2	1000-1115	1200-1250					
4		1130-1245	1300-1350					
5	3	1300-1415	1400-1450					
6		1430-1545	1500-1550					
<b>Any Classes That Begins at 1600 Hours or After Follows Regular Course Schedule</b>								

**Inclement Weather Delay Schedule Given  
The Academic Day Normally Begins at 0730 Hours**

	<b>Lab Block</b>	<b>Regular Time/Day</b>	<b>Delay Time/Day</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>F</b>
1	1	0730-0845	1000-1050					
2		0900-1015	1100-1150					
3	2	1030-1145	1200-1250					
4		1200-1315	1300-1350					
5	3	1330-1445	1400-1450					
6		1500-1615	1500-1615					
<b>Any Classes That Begins at 1630 Hours or After Follows Regular Course Schedule</b>								

**Inclement Weather Delay Schedule Given  
The Academic Day Normally Begins at 0800 Hours**

	<b>Lab Block</b>	<b>Regular Time/Day</b>	<b>Delay Time/Day</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>F</b>
1	1	0800-0915	1000-1050					
2		0930-1045	1100-1150					
3	2	1100-1215	1200-1250					
4		1230-1345	1300-1350					