Summary of Calendar Models

The three models worked out by the ad hoc committee over the summer translate SMC courses into Carnegie Unit (CU) equivalents by adjusting either the number of class meetings, the number of minutes per session, or both. Model 1 adjusts number of sessions down so that most SMC courses are equivalent to 3 CUs while Models 2 and 3 increases the number of sessions or the number of minutes per session (respectively) from our current system. In Model 1, most SMC courses are valued at 3 CUs, while in Models 2 and 3, most SMC courses are valued at approximately 3.5 CUs.

Models 1, 2, and 3 assume the target for the overall SMC degree should be the equivalent of 128 CUs. Both via email and in the Senate informational sessions, several faculty members expressed the desire to consider reducing the minimum requirement for the SMC bachelor degree to the equivalent of the federally mandated minimum of 120 CUs instead of 128.

While the FWC takes no position on this issue, we want to include this possibility and developed Models 4 and 5. These models are nothing more than Models 2 and 3 respectfully, but assuming an overall 120 CU equivalency goal and not 128. In these latter models, most SMC courses would be valued as 3.34 CUs. In these models, the resulting reduction of minutes allows for one less class session on MWF and one less class session on TTH in both models (eg, gains back a break day or holiday in terms of calendar adjustment compared to Models 2 or 3). Because revising the expected 128 CU equivalent to a 120 CU requirement would have an impact on the overall Calendar model, we queried faculty about support for such a change.

MODEL 1: Converts most SMC classes to 3.0 credits (Carnegie Unit) classes. Some students would be obliged to take five courses in some semesters. The number of courses taught by ranked faculty may increase from 6 to 7 courses per year.

MODEL 2: Most SMC classes would be equivalent to 3.5 CUs. Extends the regular semester by one week and Jan Term meeting times by 15 minutes. Faculty workload is increased by adding to the length of the semester, but not by increasing the number of courses taught per year. Regular semester classes remain at 60 (MWF) and 90 (TTH) minutes.

MODEL 3: Most SMC classes would be equivalent to 3.5 credits (Carnegie Units). Extends regular semester class meeting times to 65 minutes (MWF) and 100 (TTH). Maintains 13 week long semesters.

MODEL 4: Assumes 120 CUs equivalency to graduate. Most SMC classes would be equivalent to 3.34 CUs. Extends the regular semester by one week and Jan Term meeting times by 15 minutes, but reduces one meeting time for both MWF and TTH classes each semester compared to Model 2. Faculty workload is increased by adding to the length of the semester, but not by increasing the number of courses taught per year. Regular semester classes remain at 60 (MWF) and 90 (TTH) minutes.

MODEL 5: Assumes 120 CUs equivalency to graduate. Most SMC classes would be equivalent to 3.34 CUs. Extends regular semester class meeting times to 65 minutes (MWF) and 100 (TTH). Maintains 13 week long semesters, but reduces one meeting time for both MWF and TTH classes each semester compared to Model 3.