

Watkins Shoulders Scheduling Burden

By LARRY JACOBSON

To hear Ray V. Watkins, University scheduling officer, talk, the title of scheduling officer is a semi-misnomer.

More appropos would be such names as doctor, lawyer, psychiatrist, public relations expert, and a few others.

Watkins, who is responsible for scheduling course sections, final examinations, eight o'clocks, and Saturday classes,

says that during the course of a year, professors and students use his shoulder for a crying towel.

Of course, some of their complaints are legitimate, he says.

Watkins' job of scheduling course sections starts approximately four to six months in advance of each semester.

Office Requests

The scheduling office requests information from each department. The departments send in a letter stating what courses are to be taught during each semester, how many sections are needed, the number of students expected, instructors' names, and what type of room is needed for each course.

Then Watkins must make up a time table with no conflicting schedules.

The office usually starts with the required courses that most students will be taking, Watkins said, then adds other large classes which may require special facilities. "There are about 1200 courses with 1800 different listings because of multiple sections, to be worked into a reasonable pattern every semester. That's a lot of jigsaw pieces," Watkins said.

Always Complications

Like a doctor's patient, complications are always setting in. Instructor's hours must be kept free for research. Some classes are required to be scheduled in the morning, and there's always a shortage of laboratory space.

Students and professors give Watkins many headaches. One professor, Watkins said, told him he couldn't have any classes Monday mornings because he had to help his wife with the wash. Many professors, Watkins said, must be out of town on certain days and cannot have classes.

Rock Rooms

Watkins said complaints always come from the geology department. There are only three classrooms in Mineral Industries that have sample rocks needed for certain geology courses, he said. When his office is forced to schedule these classes in other buildings, the geology professors complain because they have to carry rocks around the campus.

Another source of trouble is the final exam schedule. After the exam schedule is made up, Watkins said, all types of complaints roll in.

Most complaints come from students, he said, who have to attend a wedding or must be on boat

leaving for Europe the same day of a scheduled final.

Sympathizes With Complaints
Watkins said he sympathizes with most of the complaints and tries to work things out if it's at all possible. Usually, he said, the student misses the boat.

Along with scheduling courses for 200 classrooms, 200 laboratories, and meeting rooms, Watkins also schedules meetings in Hort Woods. "Some may dispute the connection between instruction and Hort Woods," Watkins said, "but, of course, even Hort Woods could get overcrowded unless someone was charged with the responsibility of keeping track of the dates various groups want to use it."

Education Student Council

Education Student Council will meet at 7:15 tonight in 204 Burrows.

Frosh Elected To ICG Post At Conference

John Rapchak, freshman in arts and letters from Mayfield, was elected one of two assistant regional directors from the central part of the state at the Intercollegiate Conference on Government in Harrisburg over the weekend.

Twenty-three members of ICG at the University attended the three-day conference which was composed of 600 college students from all areas of the state.

Students attending the conference voted among themselves for the 1957 presidential winner, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower won by a slim margin over Adlai Stevenson on the second ballot. The vote was 146 to 140. Estes Kefauver, Chief Justice Earl Warren, and former president Herbert Hoover also gained votes.

The 23 University students favored Stevenson, 12-11.

Alan Maloney, senior in arts and letters from Teaneck, N. J., president of ICG, acted as assistant campaign chairman for Stevenson during the conference, and David Scott, junior in agricultural economics and rural sociology from Chatham, N. J., was campaign chairman for President Eisenhower. Scott is chairman of the Centre County Young Republican Club.

Police Still Looking For University Cows

The State Police are still looking for the two cows stolen from the University barns last month. Police at the Rockview barracks said yesterday that they realize the cows are probably in a barn somewhere, but that they can't seem to locate the right barn.

Delta Sigma Pi to Meet

Delta Sigma Pi, commerce and finance honorary will hold a pledge meeting at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Pi Sigma Upsilon.

WSGA Senate Will Meet

Women's Student Government Association Senate will meet at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow in 218 Hetzel Union.

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