

February 25, 2003

**MEMO**

To: St. Olaf Faculty  
Fr: Arnie Ostebee, Bryn Geffert, Eida Berrio, David Booth  
Re: Continuation of Community Time for One Year

At the March 6 Faculty Meeting, we will make a motion with three parts:

1. That Community Time be continued for one year following the current daily schedule;
2. That the chairs of CEPC and RPC appoint a group to evaluate the impact of Community Time; and
3. That this evaluation be completed by December, 2003, in good time for consideration before the February, 2004, faculty meeting, so that the faculty can make an informed recommendation to the Dean and President regarding the continuation of Community Time after that.

Considerations:

1. Community Time has not been in place long enough to establish reliable expectations or practices for its use, thus making it hard to make an informed judgment of its benefit to the community. The current motion has qualified support from RPC (insofar as the committee has endorsed using Community Time for faculty meetings so long as the current schedule exists). The motion has similar qualified support from CEPC. Continuation of Community Time for one year has the support of the registrar, since rearranging the daily schedule at this point will be a significant inconvenience. Student sentiment is hard to gauge: Student Senators have communicated cautious optimism (though they too emphasize it's still early to make judgments); but there are also reports of student indifference and/or opposition.
2. Uses of Community Time must still be clarified. Community Time first arose as an attempt to secure time for faculty to meet during the regular business day. It has not yet been fully exploited in this regard. So far Community Time has principally been used as the time for meetings of the full faculty. It could also be well used for meetings of the five faculties, of chairs and directors, and other meetings of faculty. After being proposed as a way to provide opportunities for the faculty to meet, Community Time has also been envisioned as an opportunity for more diverse events of interest to the entire community, and it has principally been presented to students as such a time. In continuing Community Time for another year, we should probably provide for faculty meetings of several kinds, and also for community events, and the interaction between these two kinds of uses should be delineated.
3. Although the existence and management of Community Time appears to be the responsibility of the Dean's office (insofar as Community Time was instituted by a decision of the Dean last year), the office of the Dean for Community Life and Diversity can serve as a clearing house for community events.