



2024 Fall Faculty Conference Survey Results



The Fall Faculty Conference Survey Closed on October 7th, 2024

Stockton University

2024 Fall Faculty Conference and Welcome Day Survey Results

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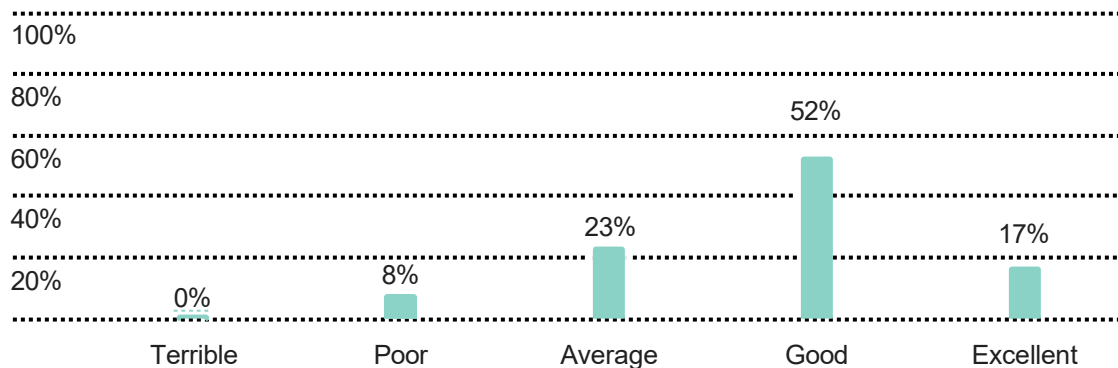
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2024 Fall Faculty Conference and Welcome Day Survey Results

- Please note: The "themes" within this report, blocked in yellow, were provided by ChatGPT using the survey's open-ended responses and asking ChatGPT for the top 5 themes.
- Please use Appendix A to view all of the responses to the open-ended questions.

Question 2: How did you like the format of the Fall Faculty Conference?

65 Responses



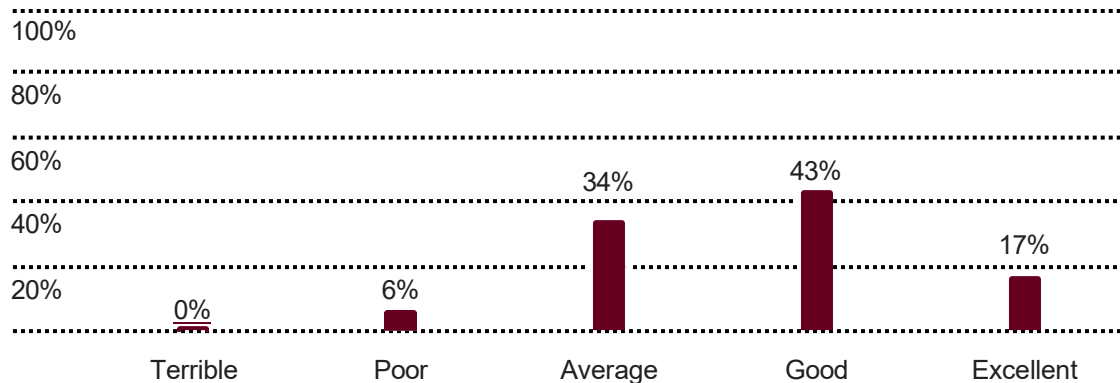
Question 3: Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the format of Fall Faculty Conference.

Response themes formulated by ChatGPT:

1. **Schedule and Timing:** Many faculty members expressed concern about early start times and the overall timing of events, particularly regarding family obligations. There was a strong preference for later start times to accommodate those with children.
2. **Format and Structure of Meetings:** Respondents had mixed feelings about the new format, with some appreciating shorter presentations and increased opportunities for interaction, while others found the small group discussions unproductive and preferred previous structures.
3. **Engagement and Communication:** There was a clear desire for more meaningful engagement and dialogue rather than long presentations. Faculty wanted more opportunities for discussion on relevant topics and felt that being "talked at" was unhelpful.
4. **Content Relevance:** Many respondents wanted more pertinent updates, particularly about the university's enrollment and financial situation. There were calls for better planning and communication about the agenda in advance to allow for meaningful contributions.
5. **Perceived Improvements and Future Changes:** While there were positive comments about certain changes from previous years, such as the scheduling of the union meeting, respondents also highlighted areas for improvement, suggesting the need for further adjustments to better meet faculty needs.

Question 4: How did you like the agenda topics for the Fall Faculty Conference?

65 Responses



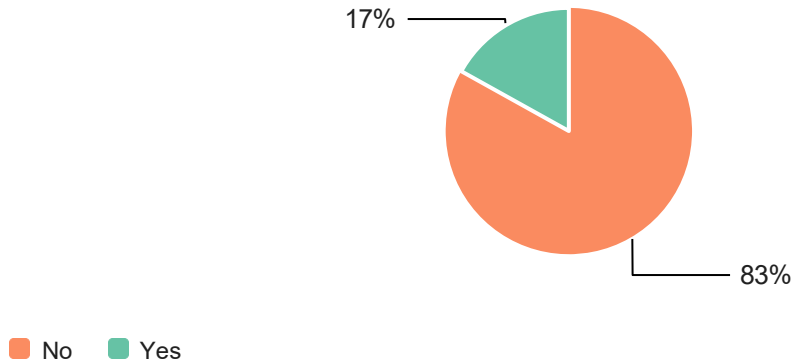
Question 5: Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the agenda of Fall Faculty Conference.

Response themes formulated by ChatGPT:

1. **Content Relevance and Retention:** Many respondents felt that the information presented during the conference was not relevant to their needs, leading to difficulty retaining key points. There was a desire for more concise and focused presentations.
2. **Administrative Communication:** Faculty expressed a need for better communication from administrators regarding important topics such as budget, funding opportunities, and student support systems. Clarity on these issues was emphasized as crucial for faculty engagement and understanding.
3. **Format and Structure of the Conference:** The format of the conference received criticism, particularly the lengthy speeches and the integration of lunch into program meetings. Respondents preferred a structure that allows for more engaging and less overwhelming discussions.
4. **Opportunities for Faculty Involvement:** There was a suggestion to highlight faculty projects to foster engagement and boost morale. Respondents appreciated initiatives that encourage faculty participation in academic and administrative processes.
5. **Feedback and Improvement:** Overall, there was a recognition of the effort to innovate this year, but many felt that the planning and execution could be improved. Faculty encouraged ongoing exploration of formats that would work better for everyone involved.

Question 6: Did you participate in the Welcome Day event on Wednesday, 9/4/2024?

65 Responses



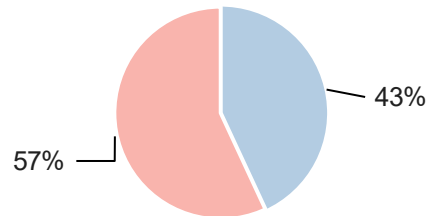
Question 7: Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Welcome Day event.

Response themes formulated by ChatGPT:

- Perception of Necessity:** Many faculty members felt that "Welcome Day" was unnecessary, particularly for those who are already familiar with the university. There was a strong sentiment that the day could be better utilized for actual teaching or course preparation.
- Impact on Class Schedules:** Respondents expressed frustration over the scheduling impact of Welcome Day, particularly for those with Monday/Wednesday classes. The delay in starting classes was seen as detrimental to student engagement and course pacing.
- Value for New Faculty:** While some recognized the potential benefits of Welcome Day for new faculty, many felt that the timing and format did not align well with the needs of seasoned faculty who preferred to start classes sooner.
- Use of Time:** There were mixed feelings about the day's purpose. Some appreciated the opportunity for additional preparation, while others found that they could have used that time more effectively for teaching or meeting with students.
- Communication and Planning:** Several respondents highlighted the need for better communication regarding the scheduling and purpose of Welcome Day. Earlier announcements would have allowed faculty to plan their schedules more effectively, minimizing conflicts with personal or professional commitments.

Question 8: Was it helpful to have classes start two days after Fall Faculty Conference instead of the next day?

65 Responses



■ No ■ Yes

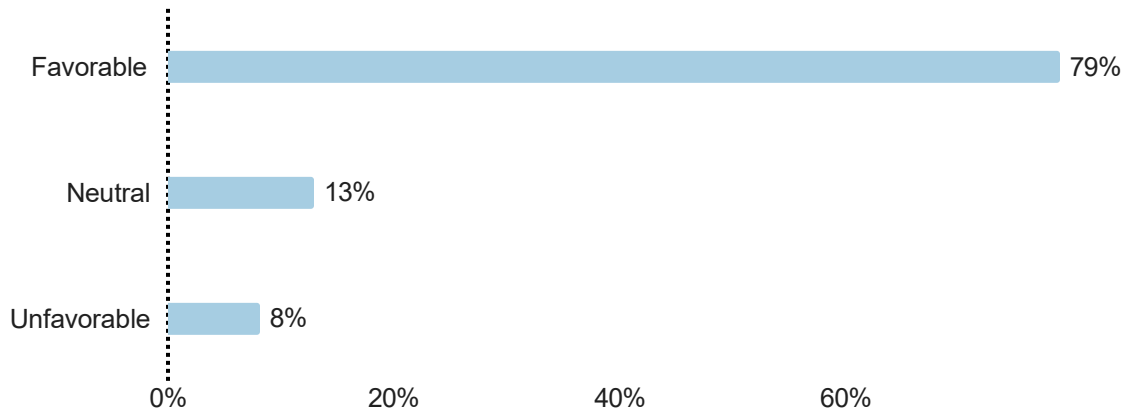
Question 9: Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the start date of classes for the Fall term.

Response themes formulated by ChatGPT:

- Impact on Class Schedules:** Many faculty expressed concerns that the timing of Welcome Day disrupted their class schedules, particularly for Monday/Wednesday classes. This disruption affected content delivery and made it difficult for students to acclimate to their courses.
- Value of Preparation Time:** Some respondents appreciated the extra day for course preparation and recovery after the Fall Faculty Conference. They felt it allowed for necessary adjustments to syllabi and planning before meeting students.
- Student Experience and Engagement:** There were significant worries about how the delayed start affected students, particularly those in courses that met less frequently. Faculty noted that this could lead to students feeling less prioritized and struggling to establish a routine.
- Concerns About Finals and Grading:** Faculty highlighted issues with grading and scheduling finals due to the alterations in the academic calendar, noting that the changes could complicate the grading timeline and overall academic flow.
- Mixed Opinions on Necessity:** Overall, there were mixed feelings about the necessity of Welcome Day. While some found it beneficial for their own preparation and decompression, others felt it was more disruptive than helpful, particularly regarding the academic calendar and student readiness.

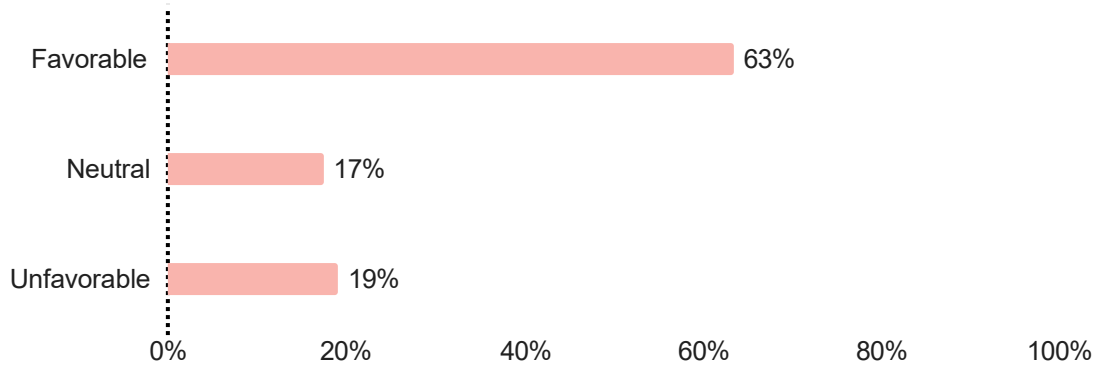
Question 11: Shortened FFC Day

62 Responses



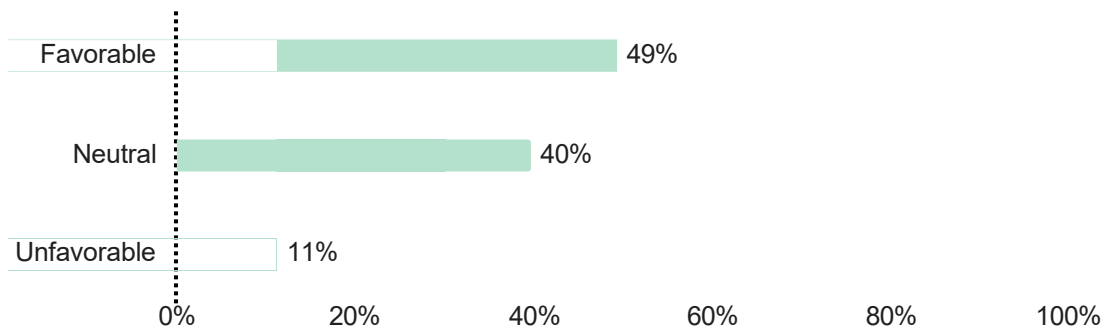
Question 12: Removal of midday Union Meeting

63 Responses



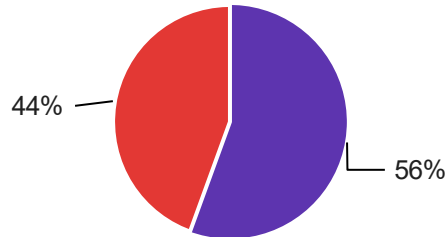
Question 13: Addition of Academic Year Kick-Off Celebration

63 Responses



Question 14: Did you attend the Academic Year Kick-off celebration

63 Responses



■ No ■ Yes

Question 15: What made you choose to attend?

Response themes formulated by ChatGPT:

- Social Interaction and Networking:** A primary motivation for attending the event was the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and meet new faculty members. Many appreciated the relaxed atmosphere for informal interactions.
- Timing and Scheduling:** There were mixed feelings about the timing of events, particularly the early start for the Fall Faculty Conference (FFC). Some found the 3 PM social to be well-timed for family commitments, while others preferred later options to enhance attendance and enjoyment.
- Food and Refreshments:** Food was a significant aspect of the event, with many respondents expressing enjoyment of the offerings. However, there were some complaints about the lack of non-alcoholic drink options and the overall setup, which affected the social experience.
- Atmosphere and Venue:** While some enjoyed the celebratory nature of the gathering, others noted that the venue was noisy and crowded, making conversation difficult. This impacted the overall enjoyment of the socializing aspect.
- Perception of Value:** Many participants viewed the social as a valuable way to conclude a long day, highlighting its role as a "celebration" rather than just another meeting. However, some felt that improvements could be made in terms of inclusivity and accessibility to enhance the experience for all faculty members.

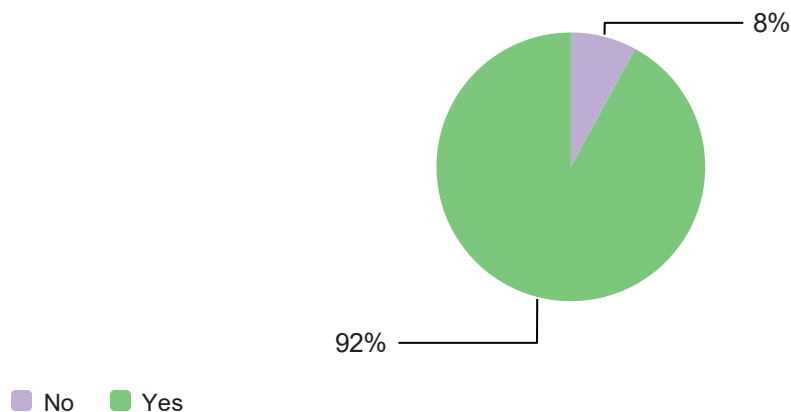
Question 16: What made you choose not to attend?

Response themes formulated by ChatGPT:

1. **Scheduling Conflicts:** Many respondents cited timing issues as a major reason for not attending the event, whether due to other obligations, childcare responsibilities, or personal commitments. The long day filled with meetings left some feeling too fatigued to participate.
2. **Desire for Streamlined Communication:** There were suggestions to reduce the number of presentations and instead rely on email updates. Participants felt this could make the day more engaging and manageable, allowing for more time for socializing and interaction.
3. **Exhaustion and Fatigue:** Several comments reflected a sense of tiredness after a long day of meetings, which discouraged attendance at the social event. The cumulative effect of early starts and extended hours left many feeling worn out.
4. **Need for Personal Time:** Faculty expressed the importance of personal time with family and responsibilities outside of work. Balancing work commitments with personal life was a recurring concern that impacted attendance.
5. **Social Dynamics and Feelings of Awkwardness:** Some newer faculty members felt uncomfortable attending the social alone, particularly if their colleagues were not participating. This highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive environment to encourage attendance and interaction among all faculty members.

Question 17: Did you pick up a box lunch to take to your program/school meeting or back to your office?

63 Responses



Question 18 had too few responses, please see the appendix for the full set of responses.

Appendix A: Full set of responses

Question 3 - Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the format of Fall Faculty Conference.

28 Responses

It seemed rushed. I would have liked more time spent on issues that are important to us as faculty.

It's a long day that feels like we are being talked at most of the day. This year's structure was better, but I am not sure what the actual intention of the day is other than to say we all must come to campus at the first possible hour we are back on contract.

Appreciated that it was more faculty focused this year and allowed time for engagement on real issues.

There are a lot of speakers in the morning and they talk for too long so it makes it hard to stay focused and actively listen the entire time.

The President and other administrators actually talked about things I cared about. However, it started too early. I'd rather not have a party at the end and start a little later. Lots of people have kids they have to get on buses.

This year the format felt better than previous years because the Union meeting was moved. I didn't think the group exercise was particularly helpful (answering the questions about Stockton)

Seemed a little more dense than most years. I like the old format better.

I liked the changes. I would perhaps hold school meetings before program meetings. Not all programs choose to meet on that day. Those that do would have a chance to discuss any relevant items from the school meeting.

An outside speaker to increase enthusiasm as there tends to be doom and gloom lately in the messaging.

Realistically, the fall faculty conference is not necessary. No other state institution does this and it takes away from the semester (classes) beginning immediately after Labor Day.

Presentation of new faculty slides was out of sync. Meeting was too long.

I appreciated that we did not have to sit through the entire morning with presentations. The opportunity to engage in discussion and dialogue with our colleagues before breaking for lunch was nice. Perhaps budget a little more time for program meetings if held during lunch to give time both for eating and for the meeting.

The group work thing was a bit contrived. I don't think I have better ideas on how to gather info or discussion in this moment, but I would be willing to help brainstorm. Maybe a QR code that people could scan while they're present and input things they want to say/discuss?

Too long in the beginning, sitting down and listening to the president or provost speak. More visual aids in the presentations to keep the audience involved.

I thought the speakers were good. More time for program meetings may be helpful since this is the first of the academic year. Boxed lunches were good.

Much more interaction and dialogue as compare to years past.

Being talked at is unhelpful. What I want is time to prepare my courses.

It is an improvement over past years but it would have been great to know about the changes (timing, Wednesday activities) in June. My program plans our fall faculty meetings in June for the fall semester and we had a full day faculty meeting planned for Wednesday. I don't think any of us attended the president's address because of the timing. It also would have been nice to have discussion topics for faculty Senate meeting prior to Labor Day weekend.

Please start the day at 9am, or at least 8:30. Beginning the day at 8:00 (especially on what is the first day of school in some districts) is always a challenge for parents of who need to drop children at daycare or put them on the school bus before traveling to campus. The structure of these events (and 4:30-6pm meetings and events) assumes that faculty members are not also parents of young children, or that faculty members with children have partners who are always available at these hours. My partner is not always available and I often miss the start of FFC to take my children to school. We don't have family help, and for reasons related to my child's needs, it is not workable to have a babysitter come to our house to help with this. I was pleased with the boxed lunch and other changes to the schedule.

I did not find that the small group tables/breakout activity as a good use of time. Also, I expected there to be more of a brief review of the state of the university's enrollment and financial situation

Way too much sitting around listening to people throw information at you. Speeches in the morning need to be much shorter especially from Trustees.

Prefer keeping All events on one full day so classes can begin earlier--we are primarily educators & for some an entire week of instruction was lost.

The FFC is always a long day so I appreciate having the union meeting on Friday although it may not have been as well attended.

The shorter format was better. I appreciate hearing updates and main goals from the President and Provost. I think we have to invite the board, and at least this year we weren't told sexist stories, but that should remain ceremonially short. Having an assembly meeting is good. I appreciated program meetings before School meetings as we have more business that needs mental energy then. I super appreciated the shorter day as I could still think.

Scheduled time for lunch and not a 'working lunch'

In the past, Program meetings followed School meetings. I preferred that format because our program tends to get a lot done at that first program meeting. We often run overtime.

It was good to see all of them, at least once a year.

The schedule change with earlier program and school meetings and then a union social was fantastic. I felt less exhausted from the day than usual and had more chance to reconnect with colleagues. The idea of small table discussions was a good one, but I think there was some confusion about the instructions and purpose. Worth trying again. I did not like the extra "welcome day" before classes started due to the class schedule shifts (especially for MW classes and labs), but I can see how that open day might be useful for new faculty and adjunct faculty.

Question 5 - Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the agenda of Fall Faculty Conference.

8 Responses

Again, it all seemed a bit rushed. I did not like the whole eat lunch at your program meeting idea that was terrible. I would have rather had the multi-union kickoff on Friday or before the semester started in August. This entire first week was bizarre.

I did not retain most of the information shared in the morning and I do not feel that it is appropriate for someone, such as the provost, to lecture for so long about things that do not feel relevant to me. The discussion about the strategic plan seemed useful (I guess) and I enjoyed the fact that we were asked for our feedback and opinions to develop the plan together, but this feels like something faculty senate could do and perhaps we could just be informed at the fall faculty conference about what is going on. But to spend an hour discussing this felt overwhelming. The entire day always feels overwhelming. I feel like everyone involved in planning the topics for the day should really consider what are the minimum amount of information that needs to be stated to the ENTIRE faculty body?

See previous page. BTW a back button on this survey would be nice! I appreciate your trying something new this year. It's worth exploring what works best. Also appreciate this feedback survey.

Maybe highlighting more faculty projects to boost esteem and encourage others to "get involved"

I don't remember too much of them. Long winded speeches one after another make people tune out.

Administrators need to help the "Academic Community" understand enrollment, budget and academic preparation of incoming student realities.

Faculty need Deans and Support Staff to clarify: 1) budget/conference travel and scholarly funding opportunities & New IRB processes; 2) what's being done to address burgeoning CARES referrals and LAP demands on behalf of unprepared and anxious/demanding students. Much of what happens on Fall Faculty Conferences could be handled in a Memo.

I didn't think that the strategic planning lecture from the senate president and then the breakout groups was very helpful.

The topics seemed good and more or less comparable to other years.

Question 7 - Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the Welcome Day event.

28 Responses

I came in but didn't have any need to interact with other departments other than my own college. I would rather have had the program and college meetings on this day.

While I did not attend events on Welcome Day, I did use the day to adapt my syllabi in light of conversations and developments discussed during the Fall Faculty Conference. I much appreciated that extra time.

I did not like the "day off." I would prefer to have a shorter Fall Faculty Conference Day that ends by 1pm or so to then use the afternoon to find classrooms, offices, etc... The extra day of planning was not helpful for me personally either and it makes the final exam week a little odd.

I liked having that day in between the Conference and start of school to prepare for the first day of class.

I'd much rather have that as a class day than a Welcome Day.

I like the additional day to get prepared for the semester. I think it may be also great to visit the offices if you are newer to Stockton

I loved having extra prep time and really used it, but it's hurting me with fitting in enough class time. A lost day of teaching makes the rest of the semester a little harder, especially for M/W classes that didn't meet at all in week 1.

I think it was an excellent idea. It would help if welcome day had been announced sooner, so people could plan accordingly.

I used the day for course prep.

Was wonderful to have a day for class prep.

Again; a waste of a day to begin classes. This was so unnecessary.

I think this day is helpful for new faculty, but even then, they are probably preparing for classes instead of visiting offices on campus. I would suggest moving this day to once the semester begins, so faculty can visit in between classes. Or, have it at the same time as Fall Faculty Conference, but for part of the afternoon.

I mean, I was on campus working/prepping for class, but I didn't visit any of the offices. Honestly,

I would have preferred to just start class on Wednesday so that the academic calendar wouldn't be as screwed up as it is now (e.g., extended week spanning two weeks and starting in the middle of a week - it totally threw off my course schedules and planning). Maybe in future semesters where the extra day wouldn't make the academic calendar weird I would appreciate the time more. I've been accessing those offices when need arose, regardless of whether I was on or off contract.

I like the idea of having a day to prepare!

not necessary

This is an unnecessary day. Classes should have begun on Wednesday not Thursday.

Provide Zoom options

I did not find that it was a useful or needed activity

It's somewhat nice to have a day off between mind-numbing meetings and a full day of teaching but for those of us on a MW schedule, it means we lost the first week of classes. Trying to do a class intro in the second week has had an adverse effect on the students; they automatically make those classes a lesser priority since the university didn't see a value to holding them along with their other classes.

Starting WMF courses on Friday is not the best idea.

The "welcome day" seemed superfluous to non-new faculty/staff and time was really needed for classroom instruction before add/drop

I really did not feel a need to. I have been here a while and did not need to learn about any other office.

I am not typically on campus on Wednesdays

I helped host an info session on Osprey Navigate. Before I knew that the day would be used I had re-scheduled a medical appointment for that morning as it was my only real option before January, but if I'd known how the day was to be used even a week earlier I could have avoided that.

Wish we would have just started the semester.
As a person teaching Mon/Wed, I disliked not having classes the first week. Several colleagues have said the same thing to me. Perhaps brand new faculty found Welcome Day useful, but I think most faculty who have been at Stockton longer stayed home.

I'm not sure what "participate" means. I was on campus that day. See my comments in the first comment box.

Totally unnecessary and kind of a waste of time in my opinion. Don't we have all summer, or at least August, to get things printed and get prepared? I'm not sure it's good for students either, especially pushing back the start of class for new/incoming students.

Question 9 - Please feel free to share additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the start date of classes for the Fall term.

29 Responses

Maybe for Thursday classes, because it didn't change anything, but because September started on the weekend, Friday's attendance was not great and many students didn't show up until September 11th.

It was disorienting for the students to not have their MW classes until the following week.

Students and faculty are ready to start!

It was helpful because it was easier to make adjustments to my course syllabi and policies in light of discussions and developments during the Fall Faculty Conference. Previously, making these adjustments was stressful and too last minute.

I would rather start classes immediately so that the semester ends on a Friday.

This meant we had a day to recover from the long FFC so we weren't exhausted going into the first day of classes. We should keep this timing!

It allowed time for printing materials, plan for the semester and connect with colleagues.

See previous answer.

That day gives us a chance to update syllabi with any new information received during Fall Faculty Conference and Welcome Day.

The extra day for course prep while on contract is helpful.

It provided a day to decompress before meeting with students. With a negative focus on the state of the university, having a day to process before meeting students, especially freshman, was greatly appreciated.

This threw the schedule off for the semester.

I really appreciated this.

It totally screwed the academic calendar schedule and therefore, my course schedule. Extended week spans two weeks and starts in the middle of one - it's a total mess.

This was great!

This was a major disruption. This alters the finals schedule in a negative way. This should be avoided in future semesters.

It threw off our course schedules for the courses that only meet once a week (one less week for the classes that only meet on Wednesday)

Please start immediately after FFC

Personally nice for me as an employee but it was a disaster for the students with a MW class. They had to do all the intro work of learn the syllabus and the routine of the class and then jump into content work on the first day which already second week so it overwhelmed them. As previously stated, they immediately felt the MW classes were not as important as the ones which met during the first week. Students on the spectrum or other personal issues also felt lost since they couldn't develop a routine during the first week, their MW courses suddenly disrupted any sense of security in the second week.

It was nice to have an additional day in between starting classes. However, because of teaching a MW hybrid course, it was. not ideal to not have a class meeting the first week.

Starting on a Friday, if you're teaching MWF or MW, is not the best plan.

Nationwide, more universities start in August than early September, we just lost instruction time.

My actual answer is "no opinion", but that's not an option and I am not allowed to move on until I provide an answer.

It gave time to get myself together and handle last minute issues before starting with student.

I appreciated the extra time in the first week and not teaching the day after FFC, although with it shorter teaching the next day would be better.

Missed a full day of Wednesday class content that had to be fit into the alternate week's schedule.

It was nice to have a day off, but not having classes during the first week was annoying.

It's tough to have finals wrap over beyond a weekend and lose the extra days of grading before senior grades are due. Not worth the day off at the beginning of the semester.

See previous response -- I think it may hurt more than it helps.

Question 15 - What made you choose to attend?

19 Responses

The chance to see folks that I don't normally get to see and the chance to introduce new faculty to people outside our program/school.

Great way to see colleagues after summer.

While there are many useful meetings, a "celebration" sounds more exciting than a "meeting"

I enjoyed talking with my colleagues and catching up.

Reconnect with faculty.

Free drink!

to see people and say hello in a relaxed manner

Good way to end a long day and catch up with colleagues.

Food

Just to see who was there but by 3:30-4pm, I was more anxious to go home (long drive) so didn't stay long.

It seemed like the social thing to do, but it was in a very noisy place, so I left quickly because I could not hear what people near me were saying.

good idea

Thought opportunities might exist to HEAR how other NJ unions are fairing; and to get a non-alcoholic drink--which was impossible to obtain., Very biased use of SFT union funding--not all faculty are Democrats or Drinkers. Also COVID still exists and the crowd near the PAC was congested and claustrophobic

had the time to do so with shortened day

Meet and greet other faculty

The timing was nice. It was at 3pm so I could attend and still be home for dinner and family activities.

I attended to see colleagues, which was pleasant. I almost didn't go. 8:00 a.m. was the earliest I think we've ever started FFC. Too early! Not conducive to attending a party afterwards (although I did enjoy the party).

Food and socializing

fun times

Question 16 - What made you choose not to attend?

29 Responses

I was grumpy from the full day of meetings so not pleasant to be around.

priorities

I was exhausted from all of the speakers and meetings. But I really did want to attend.

I had been there since before 8 in the morning. I was exhausted. I walked over, took a look, and then just decided to go home as I was too tired. It was a great idea, but bad timing after a long

day that started way too early.

Childcare responsibilities

Very challenging year for union issues, needed a little space. Also needed the prep time while I was on campus. I do like the idea of having an event for all the unions, if there is going to be an event.

outside factors limiting attendance

personal time with family

Long day.

After a summer of being alone, the FFC, school, and program meetings were all the socialization I needed that day.

transportation problem for that day

I am a fairly new faculty, and no one in my program was attending. I felt awkward attending alone.

Sitting all morning and afternoon in meetings motivates one to leave campus as soon as possible, especially if the commute is 1+ hours.

I had another appointment, but plan to attend next year if it happens.

I was tired after the long day.

Child care

I had other Stockton-related obligations, but I heard it was great

Timing was not convenient.

Tired at the end of the day.

I had an unexpected and urgent issue to attend to on campus, but I would have attended had this problem not come up.

Busy preparing for the start of the semester

Too much going on

Needed to get home to walk dogs, plus I was worn out from the day.

I intended to but last minute issues that needed to be addressed crept up unexpectedly.

I meant to and accidentally talked with colleagues the whole time and didn't make it there!

I was able to get home and pick up my kids from their first day of school.

Alternate obligation. Perhaps next year have fewer speakers presenting their yearly goals in presentations versus email communications , include the union update in the morning, with the kick off over lunch. Then follow up with School meetings and then programs seeing that not all programs meet that day. This may help faculty and staff stay engaged and energized throughout the day.

I did work to prepare for my classes

No availability

Question 18 - Why did you not pick up a box lunch?

4 Responses

I do not enjoy the food from Chartwells

forgot

I bring my own lunch

Not a union member

Question 19 - What additional feedback do you have for future SFT events during Fall Faculty Conference?

35 Responses

Keep the union lunch during the FFC. Do all union gatherings when more all union members can attend.

I really like that SFT did the "bring your lunch" to school meetings. This felt very smooth.

I liked having the lunch box for my program meeting, but I missed having the union meeting. This seems a lost opportunity to pull new faculty into the union. Granted, in recent years, fewer people have stayed for the union meeting, but that just suggests to me that you need incentives beyond food to get them there.

There was a long line for lunch that moved very slowly. I spent over 15 minutes in the line and some of the options weren't available. It may help to distribute lunch more efficiently and to also RSVP in advance with choice of food to get a general count/sense of what options to order.

I think the lunch meeting was a good arena for hearing updates and asking questions.

it was motivational and enjoyable

I think briefly outlining priorities and soliciting SFT and Faculty Senate agenda items during Fall Faculty Conference is a good idea.

It was great! I don't have anything additional to talk about.

Though I attended the SFT meeting on that Friday, I am more likely to attend if it is during lunch after the FFC.

Eliminate

two drink tickets/faculty in stead of one :-)

I appreciated not having a meeting that day, because it's already a full day. I also was grateful for lunch.

Maybe a location that gave more space to spread out and do things (like outside, or a re-set of Campus Center Event room).

I liked the vegetarian/vegan options for the lunch this year! I liked not having both a senate and union meeting on the same day as program/school meetings. Very easy to burn out.

School meeting during lunch instead of program meetings. School meetings are more passive so we can eat better.

Really liked the ending event. Please keep of we can.

I liked the workshop style activity and the information/comments by the Provost were good

Somewhat noisy and crowded at PAC. Could it be held in Campus Center or outdoors?

It is a wasteful exercise.

I appreciate the effort to try something different- just give us more time to know about the change in times and events.

Start at 8:30 or 9am

Please be mindful of what faculty are actually hoping will take place during FFC - many of us left mid-way to work in our offices

The SFT should host a lunch that's not a meeting; let that period be a relaxed get-together instead of after all the meetings.

SFT better focus on framing a viable educational pro-active plan to deter layoffs and mergers.

It was good that it was a shortened day.

I liked the format this year despite that issues popped up that disrupted my plans.

I think we need lunch but maybe the university can provide that as SFT funding that if we're not having a meeting doesn't make sense to me. Bagged lunches worked really well.

keep the shortened day, please!

I would start with a review of the wins for SFT from the previous year. Perhaps remind folks where there bi-weekly dues are going to encourage them to remain due paying members. Perhaps poll members to inquire about alternate ways to celebrate and collaborate together

besides having pay day parties. Many folks are off campus that day.

This was a good idea.

Thank you for asking for input.

It was my first time attending it. It was good.

I liked the new format because it was not as tiring as the FFC had been in prior years with long meetings that made us feel drained at the end of the day.

See below

good job

Question 20 - Do you have any suggestions to improve the Fall Faculty Conference in the future?

38 Responses

Move school/program meetings to the next day or a different day than FFC so as not to rush everything. It would have been better to get updates from CTLD, ITS, etc. during FFC.

Start a little later. Make things a bit more interactive.

More interactivity

A slightly later start time.

Limit the speakers in the morning to 20 minutes max if possible.

It was a long day. I would have started the conference 30 minutes to one hour later. You could still have the party and any staff or faculty member who didn't want to stay past five, could leave after the first hour. As it is, the incredibly long day favors faculty and staff who don't have family obligations. For the brief time I was there, I noted that my friends (and especially women) with school age children/adults they cared for were mostly not there.

No group activity

I liked the old style PPT with updates on Stockton numbers, budget, etc. I think that's going to be separate this year but it felt good to have that info at the beginning and fit in well with the FFC vibe.

I am not sure what to suggest at this time.

In the past, FFC day tended to be long and exhausting. I appreciate efforts to make it a bit shorter.

I enjoyed the interactive piece of the faculty senate - our table collaborated with others, and it was nice to meet other faculty. I know this is an unconventional thought, and I have no thoughts for implementing, but more interactive pieces. Again, during the break out discussion during the Faculty Senate "meeting", I had the pleasure of meeting individuals with many years at Stockton. It was nice to hear some of the historical perspectives mixed with fresh ideas from newer faculty. Thank you.

Eliminate

Shorten the meeting in the Campus Center. Too long. Share state of higher Ed and its implications to Stockton/us.

This is always a great way for the Faculty Senate to identify issues to put on the agenda for the year, so I hope there's always space for that.

This year I did not leave with a migraine, so I would call it a win overall.

Have people stick to their time slots, incorporate more breaks to stretch or get some more food/snacks/coffee

Liked having that extra day!

Boxed lunches-I had a salad which was very good, but I heard that the turkey sandwich was not

Chairs are hard to sit on for a long time. Would be nice to get up and move more.

Some of the talks can be shortened because they contained information that is easy to share through email. But overall, it was a big improvement over the longer ones.

It does not need to be so long - a simple address from the Provost is sufficient.

See my above comment

A brief state of the university address, a brief overview of key points or important considerations for the fall, and a welcoming of the new faculty followed by short program and school meetings

The color printing left on the tables was a waste of money. A QR code with all of the notices would have been better and much less expensive.

Less meetings. Can't programs decide when and where to hold their own meetings instead of forcing one on FFC day? We only need to hold minimum two meetings a year and the FFC clears half the requirement. Let us determine when we need the meetings.

CHANGE from longstanding routine. Risk doing the following: 1) Administrators report on budget decisions that have been made in behind closed door meetings that affect everyone. 2) Staff in charge of admissions/enrollment educate "the academic community" on the caliber of incoming and existing students insofar as academic preparation; anticipated need for learning access/EOF and other services; 3) Deans--elaborate upon how you will work towards solidifying school and program unity rather than micro-managing and double standards application. 4) SFT--provide rationale for why backing Randi Weingartens' recommendations for dues usage and elaborate on Governor's Commission. 5) School meetings--after introducing new faculty and those promoted/going on sabbatical, etc. EDUCATE about how the SOBL office works; make transparent what gets communicated to program chairs/directors to all; update about unstated priorities hope to be seen in faculty files and program's selected projects and yearly endeavors.

I like breaking it up and having the program and school meetings earlier.

I thought it went well.

Nothing- the food was great!

keep the shortened day

See previous response please.

Some administrative topics could be discussed in an email and not needed as an agenda item

Maybe have program tables with tent cards, people spend a lot of time trying to find a place to sit and taking chairs from tables, etc.

8:30 or 9:00 seems early enough to begin a long day of meetings.

I just can't wait the next meeting.

Shorter presentations from administrators (unless they have more substance)

No, I liked the new format.

I'm not a huge fan of meeting after meeting after meeting, so I've never loved this day.