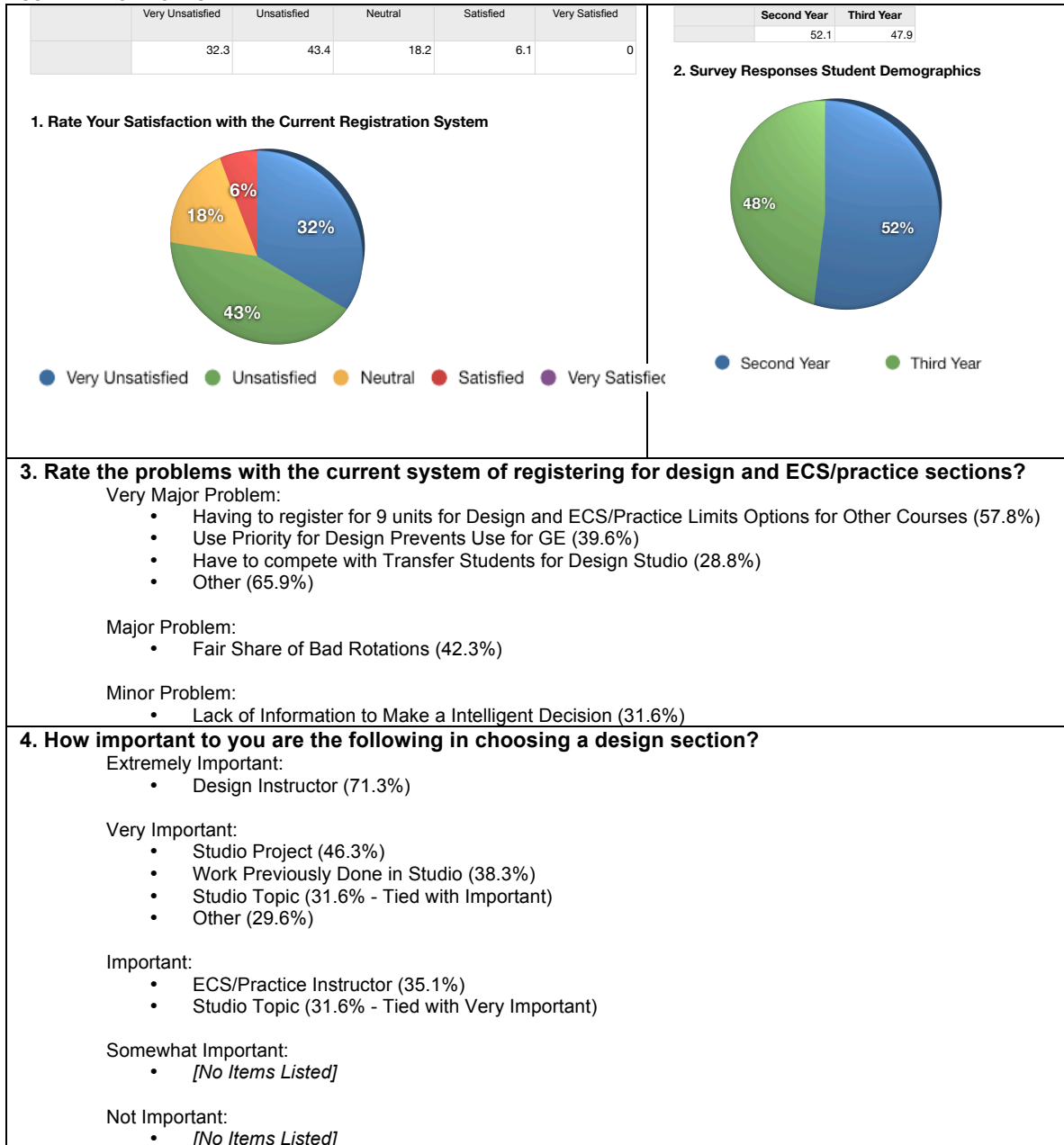**November 12, 2009**

Subj: Registration Survey

Dear Third Year Students:

Thanks to all of you who were able to respond to the registration survey that was conducted May 22, 2009 we were able to obtain equal numbers of responses from both second and third year students. We were able to receive 100 responses to this survey in a short period of time and the responses were limited to this number since we were using the free version of survey monkey.

The third year faculty are attaching the results of this survey for your review. We will be looking into what can be done to improve the registration system for third year students over the next academic year. The challenges of any changes will need to acknowledge the scale of third year and also make sure that any potential changes will not make the registration process any more onerous then it already is.

Thomas Fowler IV, AIA
Third Year Coordinator

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS —

	Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
	32.3	43.4	18.2	6.1	0

1. Rate Your Satisfaction with the Current Registration System

- Very Unsatisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

	Second Year	Third Year
	52.1	47.9

2. Survey Responses Student Demographics

- Second Year
- Third Year

---

3. Rate the problems with the current system of registering for design and ECS/practice sections?

Very Major Problem:
- Having to register for 9 units for Design and ECS/Practice Limits Options for Other Courses (57.8%)
- Use Priority for Design Prevents Use for GE (39.6%)
- Have to compete with Transfer Students for Design Studio (28.8%)
- Other (65.9%)

Major Problem:
- Fair Share of Bad Rotations (42.3%)

Minor Problem:
- Lack of Information to Make a Intelligent Decision (31.6%)

---

4. How important to you are the following in choosing a design section?

Extremely Important:
- Design Instructor (71.3%)

Very Important:
- Studio Project (46.3%)
- Work Previously Done in Studio (38.3%)
- Studio Topic (31.6% - Tied with Important)
- Other (29.6%)

Important:
- ECS/Practice Instructor (35.1%)
- Studio Topic (31.6% - Tied with Very Important)

Somewhat Important:
- *[No Items Listed]*

Not Important:
- *[No Items Listed]*

SURVEY DETAIL —

📈 **Response Summary**

Total Started Survey:	**100**
Total Completed Survey:	**94 (94%)**

Show this Page Only

Page: Satisfaction

1. The Architecture Department is considering alternatives to the way students register for design and ECS/practice sections. Please rate your satisfaction with the current system.   ⬇ Download

		Response Percent	Response Count
Very unsatisfied		32.3%	32
Unsatisfied		**43.4%**	**43**
Neutral		18.2%	18
Satisfied		6.1%	6
Very satisfied		0.0%	0
		answered question	99
		skipped question	1

2. Please rate the following as possible problems with the current system of registering for design and ECS/practice sections.   ⬇ Download

	A very major problem	A major problem	A minor problem	A very minor problem	Not a problem	Response Count
I have more than my fair share of bad rotations.	29.9% (29)	**42.3% (41)**	22.7% (22)	4.1% (4)	1.0% (1)	97
I have to use a priority to register for design, which prevents me from using it to register for GE.	**39.6% (38)**	34.4% (33)	15.6% (15)	4.2% (4)	6.3% (6)	96
I have to compete with transfer students in registering for design sections.	**26.8% (26)**	19.6% (19)	24.7% (24)	14.4% (14)	14.4% (14)	97
I lack the information to make an intelligent choice among design instructors.	17.9% (17)	23.2% (22)	**31.6% (30)**	7.4% (7)	20.0% (19)	95
Having to register for 9 units of design and ECS/practice limits my options for taking other courses.	**57.8% (52)**	20.0% (18)	12.2% (11)	4.4% (4)	5.6% (5)	90
Other	**65.9% (27)**	7.3% (3)	2.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	24.4% (10)	41
				💬 Show replies Please explain Other		29
					answered question	97
					skipped question	3

Comments (Other)

1.
the priority loses its value for us since most of us (who have bad rotation every quarter) use that for not taking the worst studio instructor. because at the time we 're using our priority, there're 3 best studio closed already. plus, the idea of open extra spots in those 3 previously closed studios after priority registration is not a good idea. to us, it's more like a trick. it made us feel like fools. it's kinda funny about the rotation because all my studio mates have the similar last name, and we stuck with each other almost every quarter.
Sat, May 23, 2009 12:00 AM

2.
Students who have priority for sports, even though they aren't currently playing for Cal Poly/it is not even the sports' season, but the coaches still allow them to register early.
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:29 PM

3.
Studio culture at Cal Poly is systemically flawed exactly as described in the paper "The Redesign of Studio Culture: 2002 AIAS Report (pdf)" on the architecture web page.
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:18 PM

4.
if you dont use
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:57 PM

5.
Students not using priorities and not registering at all, knowing well that they will get assigned to the professor they want (waiting it out). Also, having used priorities in order to get a mediocre professor.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:43 PM

6.
The tradition that, even though you can be 1st rotation, you still must use priority to guarantee the professor of your choice.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:30 PM

7.
For third year, basing the two quarter studios on a single rotation unfairly benefits a few students who are lucky enough to have the correct rotation at the right time. other students are prevented from showing interest because of their rotation and are then blocked from taking teachers when they have a good rotation. a two quarter studio should be based on interest and a portfolio. in the same way that 4th year abroad and 5th year design are decided.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:19 PM

8.
I used one priority second year not knowing that EVERYONE in arch uses it third year and even with first priority third year I was not able to get a design instructor i wanted...the whole year I have not gotten any of the instructors that really interested me, which are all except one or two. I am extremely dissatisfied with my third year because i have gotten the "bottom of the barrel" design instructors that are not on the same level with other third year instructors.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:08 PM

9.
This quarter I experienced a major flaw in the system. I have 8th rotation and accepted the fact that I wasn't going to get the teacher that I wanted. However, after all the "good" classes were full and others started filling one extra spot mysteriously showed up in all of the classes. This prompted me to use a priority to get one of the classes. Upon registration I was alerted that I had a hold. In the moment of using my priority I was so full of anxiety and tension regarding the fact that I was about to get the class of my dreams that I would have never checked my hold status. My major problem is two fold. One- a person should no be able to activate their priority if they have a hold because by nature the hold renders it useless. Second- the department should not mysteriously sprinkle new classes into the mix. It is extremely unfair to the people that had resigned to another teacher and causes such unbelievable stress. Had those classes not appeared I would have never wasted a priority to get a class that I could have gotten through my normal registration. Something NEEDS to be done.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:05 PM

10.
Choice is limited to open section available at time of registration
Fri, May 22, 2009 5:48 PM

11.
Priorities are all used at the same time, and doesn't become a priority, it just puts you in a normal rotation. We should instead be able to apply for different studios based on out first second and third choice, after given information on what the studios are about. The teacher of the studio could then pick who seems appropriate for that class.
Fri, May 22, 2009 5:29 PM

12.
Priority negates regular registration rotations.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:50 PM

13.
Currently you are basically forced to use all your priorities during third year just to get into you design classes, which makes them worthless because everyone uses them at same time, so you still aren't able to get in the studio you want. Also after wasting all our priorities trying to get into a studio, we cant use them to get other classes we need to take.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:47 PM

14.
The process of request form for design and practice because this system has nothing but flaws. After filling out the request form, how each student is assigned to which professor is problematic. The [priority system] decision is made by last name alphabetic order, but that is not the case because if it was my first choice request would have been whom I had but it was not. Whereas other student got there request, there is a sense that some students are favored by certain professor.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:38 PM

15.
the design course request system does not work. some people get exactly who they want for three quarters in a row, others get completely screwed. people should have to apply for each studio with a portfolio for all years.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:36 PM

16.
The quarters I choose to take an intense design professor (thus needing a priority) I cannot sign up for too many units, so the quarters I need to take GEs I cannot use a priority. Adding a 16th spot randomly to each studio is completely unfair. Also, because registration was every hour this quarter, PASS was not up to date on openings and many people used a priority to get into a studio that was already closed. Students who get extra priorities because they are athletes (or WERE athletes and somehow still reap the benefits) use those priorities for studio unfairly instead of using them for their intended purpose (to work around sports practice schedules). The entire process makes registration very cut-throat. If all of the professors were good, registration would be less of an issue.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:28 PM

17.
There are a handful of professors that are looked highly upon. It feels, however, that if I don't "work the system" as well as get lucky with my last name, I will not be able to take these professors. The idea among students is not getting these professors will result in a lesser education. This is very frustrating to me because I have worked hard to get here and am paying my own way through school.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:25 PM

18.
It is frustrating to have to register for 13 architecture units, then waitlist a GE or other class; I'd like to be able to register for 16 units at once like people in other majors.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:20 PM

19.
I believe there should be a system where the students can see which projects the design instructors plan on doing during the next quarter, without the names of the instructors. This way, students can register for projects that interest them, instead of relying on the testimony of other students to take instructors perceived as "better".
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:14 PM

20.
- Many get stuck with professors we did not choose.
- There are not enough spots in the EDES sequence.
- There are sections of studio marked as "staff," so we don't even know who is teaching some sections of design, which when combined with my first point makes for a very bad situation.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:08 PM

21.
When I am in the last rotation and should have to fill out a design request form because studios are filled up by the end, but instead other people ahead of me in the rotation just wait to register because they don't want to take the last studio left, and I am stuck registering for it.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:58 PM

22.
I don't think that professors should be able to pick favorites and make room for them in their studio despite their bad rotation. Also, the design request process seems unfair and students aren't really informed of how their rotation might factor into their final placement.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:36 PM

23.
we can only sign up for 16 units at first, so structures, design, and practice put us at 13 units, making it so that we can't sign up for a GE, even if we have used a priority (which sucks, and defeats the purpose of what they were originally designed for)
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:35 PM

24.
by limiting us to register for 16 units we can only register for 3 classes and that 4th class is generally a ge that fills up fast and we have to crash and not get in, putting us farther back. Also teachers should put up their projects and design criteria before we register so we can pick a professor based off of the project/and the professor not just the professor. people who have 12th priority should be able to use a priority and get classes, the priorities should be switched so those who register 12th and take a priority register 1st and those who register 1st register 12th if they take a priority, so that we don't use a priority when we have 1st rotation but when we have 12th and really need it
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:33 PM

25.
We shouldn't have to register for practice until after the 22 unit rotation period, so we can get our GEs!!!!
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:30 PM

26.
The system for registration is like the lottery, if you truly want to take a certain teacher it is impossible unless you have good priority AND use a priority.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:24 PM

27.
Maximum units should be 17 units during regular rotations for architecture student because after signing up for 9 units, it is hard to fully take advantage of 7 units. Also we need to have more priorities because we are here 5 years as opposed to 4 like most majors. Athletes get priorities every year or even twice a year for their practices; I say having class MWF 1-6 is like having practices. Also, we should not have to register for practice lecture and lab because we are already guaranteed a spot when we sign up for a particular studio.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:21 PM

28.
Unfortunately, there are a lot of faculty that is more detrimental than beneficial and we as students have to use a priority to get a decent teacher. Next year I will have to use a priority if I want to get one of the better design teachers, but will have to choose which class not to register for that i need.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:19 PM

29.
Priority registration should be used by people with bad rotations...not by people at the front. With the current system, the top 4 rotations are using a priority to register and by the time regular rotations come around, there are 3 professors left. There are too many problems to list with this system. Randomizing is not the answer, but the current system is also terrible.

Spring Quarter 2009 Second and Third Year Students Registration Survey Results
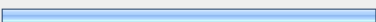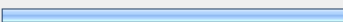Conducted Friday May 22, 2009

3. How important to you are the following in choosing a design section?						Download
	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	Response Count
Studio topic	2.1% (2)	9.5% (9)	31.6% (30)	31.6% (30)	25.3% (24)	95
Studio project	1.1% (1)	7.4% (7)	18.9% (18)	46.3% (44)	26.3% (25)	95
Design instructor	2.1% (2)	1.1% (1)	3.2% (3)	22.3% (21)	71.3% (67)	94
ECS/practice instructor	7.4% (7)	29.8% (28)	35.1% (33)	19.1% (18)	8.5% (8)	94
Work previously done in this studio	0.0% (0)	16.0% (15)	30.9% (29)	38.3% (36)	14.9% (14)	94
Other	25.9% (7)	3.7% (1)	25.9% (7)	29.6% (8)	14.8% (4)	27
					Show replies Please explain Other	15
					answered question	95
					skipped question	5

Comments (Other)

1.
ECS/practice time slot (i.e. 2-4 or 4-6)
Sat, May 23, 2009 12:15 AM

2.
Numerous Recommendations from a variety of upper-year students
Fri, May 22, 2009 11:05 PM

3.
What you hear from students who have already had this professor
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:29 PM

4.
areas of weakness. taking teachers who can help develop my skills either in design theory, practice, history or digital work.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:21 PM

5.
The differing timeslots for ECS/Practice sometimes limit me from taking a design section I would like to have taken.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:16 PM

6.
what previous students think about the instructor, and why
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:09 PM

7.
Time of Practice class
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:31 PM

8.
the time of the associated practice class - all of the classes that go past 4PM conflict with sports practices that i have, and it's not a school associated sport so i don't get to use a prioroty because of it.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:26 PM

9.
workload and grading
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:22 PM

10.
classmates
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:20 PM

7

11.
Willingness of the design instructor to work with the talents of the students, for example working with computer skills verses just shutting them down.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:20 PM

12.
Instructor reputation and course organization (structure)
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:19 PM

13.
previous students comments on the instructor and the course
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:15 PM

14.
having practice and design instructors be the same person
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:15 PM

15.
Pracice/ECS time and potenial conflicts with other courses
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:14 PM

4. What is your current year in design?		Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Second Year	52.1%	49
Third Year	47.9%	45
	answered question	94
	skipped question	6

5. Thank you for taking this survey! Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the current system of registering for design and ECS/practice sections?	Download
	Response Count
Show replies	32
answered question	32
skipped question	68

Comments

1.
please please please change it.
maybe a system more like 5th year, where we list our top choice professors. anything but the current system.
Fri, May 22, 2009 11:42 PM

2.
I was extremely fortunate to fall in good hands, but I do agree that the current registration system must be improved.
Maybe disclosing the project description but, not disclosing the professor?
Fri, May 22, 2009 11:09 PM

3.
A lottery system might be a better registering way of getting our studios
Fri, May 22, 2009 11:04 PM

4.
It is very frustrating when design studios are listed as "STAFF" when priority registration is beginning because it makes it difficult to evaluate whether it would be wise to use a priority at that time.
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:31 PM

8

5.
There's a reason the same professors keep getting chosen last during registration. A lot of students don't feel like the end of the quarter surveys are even worth filling out and commenting on because nothing changes.
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:30 PM

6.
The missed opportunities at Poly Canyon + ECS + Design is lost on Cal Poly faculty.
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:25 PM

7.
It's so stressful and too strategic. It's very competitive and you should raise the registering limits to 17 units
Fri, May 22, 2009 10:17 PM

8.
the 16unit limit for registration forces arch students to not be able to register for GE's or support classes even when using a priority. Change it to 17 units and the problem is fixed. A good third year instructor can make or break third year. I didn't get anyone I wanted, and I feel like my third year was a waste. I wish i knew to save all 3 priorities for third year so maybe i could have gotten one good instructor, which would have made my year productive.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:11 PM

9.
ECS/Practice has been a huge disappointment. Without a heliodon or artificial sky --and why do we have to travel to the Pacific Energy Center in S.F. to be in a room that physically shows the differences in electric lighting? The issue of waterproofing lacks some sort of flashing and curtainwall lab that leads to a solid conceptual understanding. Registration for practice/ecs is kind of a non-issue because of this -except that it adds a lot of units which means that using a priority might get me the studio I want but I'll still be begging to get into GE's and electives.
Fri, May 22, 2009 9:08 PM

10.
We have to take 17 units for all three quarters 3rd year and we can only sign up for 16. This means that we can't get the GE's we need to graduate. And our course load already makes it difficult to get the class we need. If we are willing to take 17 units you should make registration as stress free as possible.
Fri, May 22, 2009 5:31 PM

11.
Please consider revising the system, I think it could help a lot!
Fri, May 22, 2009 5:31 PM

12.
"STAFF" is extremely annoying
Fri, May 22, 2009 5:23 PM

13.
I think that if the two quarter studios end up happening it will be really unfair and upsetting to a large number of students while benefitting just a few. I don't think you should be able to take the same instructor for more than one quarter, especially if you get automatically enrolled in the second quarter without needing use a priority. Everyone wants the opportunity to take one of those teachers and to limit both of them to one group of students for two quarters is a really unbalanced distribution of resources. You shouldn't be denied the possibility of getting an instructor just based on you winter quarter priority spot.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:58 PM

14.
PLEASE change the system!!! Its really terrible and I feel that I haven't had a say in what studio I have taken because of so many people taking priorities.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:52 PM

15.
The design request forms are problematic because some students purposely fail to register so they can get into the studios they want most, making it unfair for those of us who follow the rules and do not pursue this option.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:46 PM

16.

I really feel like the problem could be easily solved if the cap for first round registration was 17 units instead of 16.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:40 PM

17.
I have a lot of concern with the Fowler/ Cabrinha 2009 winter/spring combined studio. If this group of students get two of the highest regarded instructors for two quarters in a row, it is extremely unfair. It is my understanding that third year is a very important part of the architecture program and I want to push myself to the max to get the most out of my education. I am very afraid I will not be able to, however.
My fellow students and I have thought about structuring the third year studio system somewhat like choosing the study abroad programs in fourth year. If every student submitted their top professors for each year and was able to get at least one, this at least would give everyone on quarter of fulfillment.

Thank you for conducting this survey. I know this is a difficult situation and it is definitely a problem which needs to be addressed.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:39 PM

18.
Thank you for listening to our concerns, as I believe a change is necessary for the current design studio enrollment method.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:17 PM

19.
It is very strange that sections only have 15-16 spots but somehow go to 18 spots later. This is like saying, "Yes, I know you can take a priority, but sorry, I'm going to give the spot to somebody who didn't plan enough to still have a priority left."
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:10 PM

20.
It is terrible....especially the 16 unit cap when there are 17 listed on the flow chart for a couple of quarters. Priority registration doesn't work. Randomization is not the answer. Hiding staff names (i.e. writing "staff" as the Instructor) is just plain wrong if done for the majority of teachers. A big revamp needs to occur, but doing it the wrong way would make a lot of people even more unhappy. Cal poly is a great school, but I feel the registration system is one of its weakest points.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:03 PM

21.
Fixing the system of design request forms. As I stated before, people who have the worst rotation and who should be able to fill out the forms are instead stuck registering for a bad studio because other people ahead of them in rotation decide they can wait it out and fill out a form too, even though there are spots open for them to register for.
Fri, May 22, 2009 4:01 PM

22.
need a computer lab just for architect students just like regionall planning an arce does since arch students spend way more money throughout the year. There should be discounts for arch student at the bookstore for supplies cause we spend at least $1000 more a year just in supplies alone and since the registration price went up... we are students we dont have a lot of $$$ and with the economy neither do our parents.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:45 PM

23.
if there is a two-quarter long studio, it is unfair due to the fact that students that have good priorities in the previous quarter still are in the class, where as other students that wish to take the same instructor could not take the class even with good priorities.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:32 PM

24.
I REALLY REALLY REALLY think we should not have to register for practice until after the 22 units. I've had many problems getting GEs that are not guaranteed, when practice is ALWAYS guaranteed.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:32 PM

25.
I just want to emphasize how much of a pain it is to have 9 units of design/practice while being restricted to 16 units initially. This means that I can really only take one other class, which is too little if I want to graduate on time. There is a way that I can get 4 classes, but that relies on my finding a 3 unit class, which is rare, or waiting until open registration to add the class, when almost all of them are full and have long waiting lists.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:26 PM

26.
give the students what they want. also look at teacher performance to see which ones students are avoiding.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:22 PM

27.
I think it would be nice to be able to store our design tools and materials at the school between breaks, instead of having to DRIVE a car here, and HAUL the stuff to a storage facility and PAY to store it till the next quarter. It would be nice to not have to worry about it.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:21 PM

28.
The design request form doesn't make much sense. There is going to be a group of students who always end up getting last choice. The rotations should just determine who chooses last. Plus everyone just prolongs their choice in hopes of using a design request form.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:20 PM

29.
Studio should not be 5 units -- instead it should be reduced to 4 so that we can register for 16 units during the initial rotation instead of being forced to choose between studio and other classes. I know that I have, and other people I know, are willing to wait and fill out a request form in order to get into the other classes they need.

On the other hand, not being forced to register for practice/ECS at the same time as studio would also help, since we are guarenteed a spot in that class when we register for studio. This would allow students to have a chance getting into their other classes during the initial rotation instead of waiting for open enrollment.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:19 PM

30.
If everybody uses priority, it's the same as not using it.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:18 PM

31.
Since we automatically get placed in the practice section correlated to our studio options (and since practice takes up 4 units which could be used potentially to get much needed GEs), the registration for practic/ECS shouldn't even become available until open enrollment.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:18 PM

32.
Don't leave so many open spots so that 30 people
are using design request forms. People just wait for registration to end and then get a form to take a gamble on possibly getting a good teacher. Then people who used priorities might not get their top choice because you save spots for design request.
Fri, May 22, 2009 3:12 PM