

Communiversity, Branch Campus, and Higher Education Centers Cabinet Roundtable 9.14.2011

Enrollment Update

After a good-news/bad-news registration period with enrollment highs and lows, as of the first week of classes enrollment at the branch campus and HECs is down 13% which equals 142 FTEs. Percentage-wise, the smallest decrease was at Freehold, down 6% or 809 FTEs. The largest decrease was at Long Branch, down 36% which equals 45 FTEs. Neptune, Hazlet and Wall hovered between 9% and 17% down. All totaled, the sites are down 13% or 143 FTE, yet they still generated 990 FTE collectively, 42% of which were generated at the Branch Campus.

The good news is that the number of sections is down more than enrollment: 17% decrease in courses vs 13% decrease in enrollment. This means the efficiency improved with higher class sizes and reduced instructional costs. The percent fill at the sites ranged from a high of 95% at Freehold and Sandy Hook, and a low (but still respectable) 87% at Long Branch and Wall. All totaled, the sites ran 417 sections, 40% of which were offered at the Branch Campus.

Start of the Semester

The start of the semester is always exciting with the directors taking advantage of their smaller site size to personalize their welcome to students and faculty with classroom visits on the first day of each class. It's a great way to troubleshoot any problems while making students and faculty feel comfortable and welcome. The office and SSC staff are extraordinarily busy helping faculty with last minute course prep and room arrangements and helping students with a range of add/drop, advising and registration issues. This semester was not without its challenges – and fortunately also not without many solutions thanks to the work of our facilities department.

Freehold has water and mold in the basement that forced us to relocate all of the classes from the lower level to other available rooms – a very time consuming, labor intensive activity done in conjunction with the scheduling office. Particularly impressive was the instantaneous relocation the OBCD Nursing lab so the students in the current class could finish their final testing. Thanks to the prompt response from the facilities staff and collaboration with the OBCD and Freehold staffs, the students are now in a beautifully reequipped room on the third floor with a wonderful view, plenty of sunshine, and a great lab set-up. Even with additional security assistance, parking was a challenge with the lots totally full at various times throughout the week – which will hopefully be remedied with the completion of the new parking lot. Food service is one other facility-related question at WM with a tentative space plan currently under review by Dr. Phillips.

Hazlet had its challenges with Irene and a loss of power that forced the closing of the site and relocation of staff for two days and nail-biting suspense if the site could be open for the first day. After a Labor Day weekend of constant emails and phone calls among facilities and educational services staff and work with NJP&L, the site was able to open on Tuesday morning and gradually restore full operations – with the exception of Dianna's favorite elevator that is still out of service.

Long Branch took its hit from the earthquake. After a detailed facilities report that Ed Johnson conducted, the facilities staff arranged for an inspection by professionals who will be forwarding an official report and pictures to Dr. Sultan. The hurricane exacerbated the usual water leaks experienced at the site from on-going problems with the roof.

Neptune is now newly renovated with our own separate entrance (under construction) and parking lot. The interior space has improved traffic flow through the building and a layout that facilitates increased interaction between the Welcome Center and Student Services staffs. After a few final technology issues are resolved Neptune will again be fully operational.

Wall is also dealing with mold issues in the newer modular section of the building which also prompted last minute changes in room assignments and potential problems accommodating all of the evening classes. The facilities staff is still dealing with these on-going issues that are, at the moment, marginally impacting our progress with our NJCU facility plans.

Sandy Hook: Remarkably the site where we usually have the most facility issues experienced no damage from the hurricane and the earthquake, with all classes getting off to a smooth start. (Go figure!)

Meet the Artist Opening Reception: The Sandy Hook Field Station hosted a Meet the Artist Opening Reception August 25th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.. The upper level of the field station was temporarily converted into an art gallery for the display of watercolor and acrylic paintings titled ‘Art on the Hook 2’. Student paintings from the Watercolor and Acrylic Painting classes held in the summer 1 term were highlighted at the event. Twenty eight students were enrolled in the two classes with four students taking both the Watercolor and Acrylic offerings on Tuesday and Thursday during the summer six week term. There were over 70 people in attendance at the opening event.

