

Using Schedule25 To Identify Space Needs

Quickly Produces Results for "What if?" Scenarios



Inside

Florida Atlantic University

Products:

Schedule25[®] Bulk Scheduling Optimizer,
R25[®] Scheduling System, R25 WebViewer,
SIS-R25 Interface



Number of Sections:

Approximately 4500 in fall and spring, 3000 in summer

Why Schedule25?

"Enables us to use space more effectively and better understand our additional space requirements." — Harry DeMik, Registrar

The Savings:

"Making the right decisions about the space we need to add helps us justify expenditures and optimize scheduling efficiency." — Harry DeMik

The Challenge

Like so many public universities, Florida Atlantic finds itself "in a perpetual classroom shortage situation." Public universities in Florida must essentially get in line to await their turn for consideration of fund allocation requests for new space. While the university works its way up the priority list, administrators strive "to be sure we're utilizing space as best we can" in the present and to properly assess future needs to justify expenditures.

There was no question that FAU needed more space but, as various offices explored the university's space requirements, the question became "Just what size space do we need?" The Provost's office perceived a strong need for lecture halls. The Registrar's office suspected what they really needed was more of the smaller rooms ideal for classes like introductory writing and foreign languages, which have an enrollment limit of 22.

The Solution

Following her hunch, the Schedule25 scheduler in the Registrar's office decided to see what would happen if she pulled an extra 10 spaces "out of the sky," assigned them a capacity of 25 and included them in a "what if?" scheduling run for a semester.

The results were so startling that the first reaction of Registrar DeMik and his scheduler was "Wow! Did we do this right?" Utilization reports for a recent semester juxtaposed with the results of the "what if?" scheduling run clearly told the story. With more space added

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Business Profile

Florida Atlantic University comprises seven campuses along the south-central Atlantic coast of the sunshine state, with student populations ranging from 18,000 at Boca Raton to 50 at Dania Beach (SeaTech). The University has been using Schedule25 for classroom assignment for over a decade. They use R25 for select classroom and lab assignments, and use the R25 WebViewer to manage reservation requests for resources such as meeting rooms in the student services building. Future plans include moving more non-classroom scheduling into R25; for example, to track and allocate audio-visual resources.

for those smaller writing and language classes, room availability cascaded downward. Suddenly there was no shortage of larger lecture halls because the smaller classes could be placed in rooms that were a near fit. The lecture halls opened up for classes that previously would have had trouble finding adequate space.

After examining the reports, all involved agreed that the question was no longer “What size rooms do we need?” It was time to move on to consider “What equipment do we need in those smaller rooms?”

FAU will have to wait just a little longer until their turn comes up for consideration of their funding request to see exactly how much space they’ll get. “We might get eight classrooms; we might get 15,” says Harry DeMik. But they can proceed with confidence to define the details of their construction needs.

The Benefits

- Improved understanding of space usage and needs
- Improved scheduling efficiency, better seat utilization

- Better accountability for expenditures, in the knowledge that requested space is well targeted to actual needs
- Improved pedagogical experience when students are learning in a space that’s a good physical fit for the class size

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