Dear President Bennett:

The good news that retention rates are up comes at the same time that both students and faculty have serious concerns about the effectiveness of the new class scheduling. To help assess the pluses and minuses of the scheduling, the Faculty Senate recommends a four-part action plan:

1. Provost’s “Summit” this summer on scheduling. The Senate endorses this as a good first step. Student and faculty representatives should be part of the Summit.

2. Survey analysis. The Faculty Senate will have results of a survey on scheduling soon. The SGA is planning to query students next fall. Results from both surveys are critical to gathering data from the principal parties affected by the revised academic calendar and can be used to identify strengths, weaknesses, and possible areas for change.

3. Open meetings. The Faculty Senate endorses the idea of you and the Provost being present at open campus meetings on scheduling for (a) students and (b) faculty.

4. Data. The rise in retention rates is certainly good news. Data on the trend in student visits to campus mental health services and the enrollment in Study Abroad would also be useful to know as well as other data that might be collected on scheduling. Data also need to be evaluated on the intersession periods created by the reform of the academic calendar. For example, is there an increase in intersession enrollment? What are the failure, withdrawal, and drop rates in those sections?