Coffee Hour Initiative

I. Initiative

Last semester two students created a coffee hour designed to help students to get to know each other through coffee and conversation. Students rotate through conversation pairs so that they can get to know at least two people during that hour. This conversational time is structured just enough to intentionally pursue relationships, but not so structured that it loses its appeal. Last year, this event occurred weekly at 7 PM on Friday nights in an attempt to attract students. Unfortunately, this time slot naturally excludes commuter and adult students because many of these students are only on campus during business hours. After conversations with several adult and commuter students, a suggestion was made to move the coffee hour to 10 AM on Friday mornings and to make the hour a chapel credit. Student Senate is proposing that both of these changes occur.

II. Justification

As mentioned above, there is a divide between commuter and residential students. Moving the coffee hour to 10 AM allows a larger percentage of students to attend which will help increase interaction between these two groups. It has been specifically expressed by commuter students that more events should be held for all students during the hours they are on campus. All demographics of students on campus will be drawn by free coffee, chapel credit, and the prospect of making new friends. Getting more students to this coffee hour will increase conversation across diverse student backgrounds, which will help create a more cohesive community.

III. Cost

Last year between $70-$80 was spent weekly to cover expenses for coffee and other necessary items. Phil Longenecker and Luis Perez are estimating that if the coffee hour was moved to 10 am on Fridays they would need to double the amount of money need to cover expenses. They are also working with C.I.I.E. to help cover some of the cost.

IV. Timeline

This proposal would be implemented as soon as possible, and it would happen every week with the thought being that it could be canceled or adapted to accommodate other convocation credited events happening on Fridays.