

THIEL

C O L L E G E

To: Members of the Thiel College Community

From: Liz Frombgen, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College

cc: President Susan Traverso; Robert Schmoll, Senior Vice President for Finance and Management; Roberta Leonard, Vice President for College Advancement; Mike McKinney, Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students; Richard Orr, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing; Amy Schafer, Director of Athletics and Health and Physical Education Department Chair; Ashley Zullo, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Date: February 13, 2018

Re: Common Hour Program

Dear Members of the Thiel College Community,

On behalf of the Calendar Working Group (established to consider possible calendar changes to enhance the student experience and foster collaboration across campus) and the Senior Leadership Team, I write to let you know about a new Common Hour Program. This is a time when there will be no academic classes or athletic practices scheduled. The Common Hour--Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:25 p.m., will provide an opportunity for special programming for students, faculty, staff, and administration. This is a pilot program for the academic years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021. A full assessment of the program will be conducted during the fall 2020 semester.

This proposal has been developed to facilitate communication and engagement across campus. The implementation of this proposal will enhance the student experience and support the Strategic Plan goal of creating an inclusive learning environment in which every student can succeed. For staff and faculty, this time will provide invaluable professional development opportunities to advance the Strategic Plan goal of enhancing resources (of which people are the most important and valuable resource that the College has). Given that a significant portion of the College community commutes to work, embedding dedicated and protected time in the College calendar during the work day will support and facilitate an appropriate work-life balance for College employees. Senior Leadership will work with staff supervisors and academic department chairs to determine staff and faculty participation at the Thursday programs; understanding that core areas of the campus must remain functioning throughout the day.

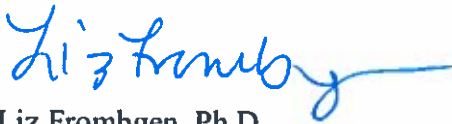
Tuesday from 11:00am-12:25pm will also be a period reserved without academic classes and athletic practices. Chapel will be scheduled during this time, allowing members the College community to enjoy worship if they wish to attend. Small committees, such as Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Campus Lifestyle Committee, and other meetings will be allowed to occur on Tuesdays at 11:00am-12:25pm. Large meetings, such as faculty meetings, will continue to be scheduled at 4pm on Tuesdays. While select meetings of campus committee and organizations may be scheduled during the Tuesday protected time, no meetings or other campus programs should be scheduled during the Thursday Common Hour.

Campus programming during the Thursday Common Hour will be developed and scheduled by the Campus Lifestyle Committee, chaired by Mike McKinney, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students. Mike McKinney has expanded the committee membership to facilitate the enhanced responsibility to plan the common hour activities. The current membership of the Campus Lifestyle Committee is: Mike McKinney, Delbert Abi Abdallah, Andy Erb, Chris Fonner, Monica Adametz, Kristin Carlson, and Than Oo. If you have an idea for a common hour program or would like to volunteer for the committee, please feel free to contact Mike McKinney.

The first Common Hour Program event will be the Opening Convocation on Thursday, August 30th. This special event, previously held during new student Welcome Weekend, will now begin the academic year for all students. As is our tradition, faculty will process in full regalia, at this special event which is intended to inaugurate the new students at Thiel. I look forward to welcoming our new students and returning students as a community at the Opening Convocation.

Please reach out to me should you have questions.

Sincerely,



Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dean of the College