BYU needed a tool that could enforce scheduling policies, schedule for multiple terms at once, support departmental faculty scheduling, optimize rooms, visualize actionable scheduling analytics and integrate tightly with their SIS.

The Challenge: Scheduling Policies & Room Optimization Difficult to Achieve With Limited Functionalities

BYU used a homegrown scheduling tool to manage their section and room schedule. However, it was challenging to enforce rules, there was required manual oversight, and there was limited workflow functionality within the tool. BYU struggled to optimize space usage since standard meeting patterns were difficult to enforce.

As a campus that scheduled for multiple terms at the same time with over a hundred schedulers and a complex priority room system, BYU realized that it had some scheduling challenges. Consequently, BYU recognized a need for a solution that could enforce scheduling policies, schedule for multiple terms at once, support departmental faculty scheduling, optimize rooms, visualize actionable scheduling analytics and integrate tightly with their SIS.

Implementation Process: Customized Fields & Workflows Built Out to Meet Campus Needs

The implementation involved a collaboration with both sides on the IS integration and policy creation. BYU worked to develop rules to enforce time-block policies. BYU and Coursedog then collaborated to extract data out of AIM (BYU’s custom SIS system) to create a bi-directional integration with Coursedog’s RestAPI.

Results: Enforceable Scheduling Policies Optimized Space Utilization & Course Offerings

BYU enforced scheduling policies for the first time, including an evening hour policy and a timeblock policy. According to Coral Taylor, BYU Associate Registrar, “being able to enforce business rules was so appealing. We could actually utilize our space well on campus. We can offer more classes and more activities and events if we schedule more wisely.” Additionally, fewer after-the-fact scheduling errors and change requests that needed to be manually accommodated via email helped the Registrar’s Office and department schedulers save time and provide better visibility and transparency into the schedule for administrators.

While BYU previously had to make 500+ manual room assignments per term, Coursedog’s optimizer automated this process and helped improve usage optimization on campus.

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