Four Day Weeks - 2012

In 2012 I have only revisited the schools with the lowest percentage of class on Friday in 2011. There were some substantial changes, some good and some bad. We can start with the bad. See the 2011 memo for preliminary discussion.

The four-day week is closest to realization among the Claremont schools. The farthest gone there is Pitzer. In fall 2011, less than 10 percent of its courses met on Friday. The proportion was .094. For Fall 2012, there are 21 of 192 that meet on Friday, 10.9 percent, slight improvement. The other Claremont schools proportions were somewhat higher in 2011, but they now approach Pitzer’s level. Claremont McKenna was .229 in 2011 but is .124 in 2012. Pomona was .242 in 2011 but is .186 in 2012. Scripps was .243 in 2011 but is .118 in 2012). It appears that these other Claremont schools have rapidly slide into the four-day week mode.

The lowest proportion in fall 2012 goes to Hampshire College. The proportion there was .138 in 2011, but it is now .084 (13/154). Fortunately, the other four-day schools in this region have not fared so badly. Mount Holyoke had a proportion of .219 in 2011, but is up to .263 in fall 2012. Connecticut College is also up a little (.206 in 2011 and .221 in 2012). But Bowdoin is down (.205 in 2011 and .168 in 2012). Vassar is virtually unchanged (.197 in 2011 and .198 in 2012). So the “five college” region is not much changed.

As I’ve grown older I appreciate that a primary purpose of college is identify young people who will function well in the real world. Why should we have colleges that are less like the real world than they need to be?