

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Annual Report of the Educational Policy Committee to Faculty Council**  
**April 12, 2013**

**Membership:**

Theresa Raphael-Grimm (Chair, Nursing & Medicine, At-Large, 2014), Andrea K. Biddle (Health Policy and Management; At-Large, 2014); Jennifer Coble (Biology, At-Large, 2014), Chris Derickson (University Registrar, ex-officio); Julie Justice (Education; At-Large, 2013); Bobbi Owen (College of Arts and Sciences; ex-officio); Mark Schoenfisch (Chemistry, At-Large, 2015); Gidi Shemer (Biology, At-Large, 2013) Jay Smith (History; At-Large, 2013); Jeff Spinner-Halev (Political Science, At-Large, 2015); Geetha Vaidyanathan (Economics, At-Large, 2015); Zealan Hoover (Ug student August-December 2012) Blake O'Connor (Undergraduate Student, Jan. 2013 onward); Jim Grinias (Graduate Student, GPSF).

**Meetings:**

The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) met monthly: August 29, October 3, November 7, December 5, January 16, February 20, March 27, and plans to meet yet this year on April 24, with a last meeting for introductions/orientation and business meeting on May 2, 2013. No meetings were cancelled this academic year. Meetings were 90 minutes in length and held from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in 3020 Steele Hall. Minutes of meetings are posted on the EPC Sakai site.

**Committee Charge:**

"The committee is concerned with those matters of educational policy and its implementation as to which the Faculty Council possess legislative powers by delegation from the General faculty under Article II of the Code. The committee's function is advisory to the Faculty Council... (article 4.6, Faculty Code of University Governance)."

**Summary of Major Activities:**

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the EPC considered the following topics and/or took the following actions:

1. EPC reviewed and approved the final version of the Syllabus subcommittee's **Guidelines for Course Syllabi** and endorsed its use campus-wide. This work was first presented to Faculty Council on September 7 and concerns were voiced (and captured on the documented proceedings of the FC meeting). The document was then revised and the revision again approved by EPC. The final revised version is reflected in Resolution 2012-11 which was approved by, Faculty Council on October 5, 2012.
2. **XF Grade:** In August, EPC was charged by Jan Boxill, Faculty Chair, with further examination and development of the XF grade as a possible sanction for academic dishonesty. This was translated to the EPC XF Grade subcommittee as:  
"Explore (revisit) the desirability/feasibility of adding to the range of normative sanctions for academic integrity the "XF" grade (failure due to academic dishonesty) that includes the instituting of an

honor/integrity course requirement that (upon completion) would allow the “X” to be removed but would retain the “F” on a student’s transcript”.

EPC appointed a subcommittee chaired by Jeff Spinner-Halev and including Mark Schoenfisch and Gidi Shemer, to more closely examine the issue. The subcommittee felt it could not proceed without more complete and updated information from the Honor System Task Force (HSTF) and other groups such as the Committee on Student Conduct (COSC). That update came in 2 segments: in November, Melinda Manning (Assistant Dean of Students and HSTF liaison) came to the EPC meeting and provided some preliminary information about the work then currently underway by the HSTF. Andy Perrin (COSC member and representative of the Chancellors Committee on Honor System Reform) and Kiran Bhardwaj (incoming GPSF president and COSC member) attended the March EPC meeting and described the current status of Honor System reform initiatives. They shared a preliminary, draft version of the “Big Five Reforms” that should be finalized shortly. The EPC XF grade subcommittee (which includes Blake O’Connor as undergraduate student representative) is now working with COSC and HSTF and other stakeholders to further examine the viability of an XF grade option, including possible honor/integrity course requirements.

3. In August, 2012 Provost Carney requested that EPC consider the **Independent Study Task Force Report (ISTFR) of April 2012 for possible campus wide adoption**. Because the College of Arts and Sciences had already adopted the guidelines embedded in the report, it was understood that adoption campus-wide would require examining how such guidelines might impact all undergraduate units outside Arts and Sciences. These units were solicited twice for feedback and representatives from the Schools of Nursing and Education responded with concerns that while their internship and practica courses fall under the umbrella of “independent study” (according to the ISTFR) these courses were not equivalent to those described in the ISTFR, and adoption of the ISTFR guidelines as they currently exist would lead to chronic violation of independent study credit limits and faculty/student ratios. In the Schools of Nursing and Education, practica and internships were fundamentally different from “independent study” as defined in the ISTFR but were consistent with courses designed to meet standards set by professional accrediting bodies. For these reasons, independent study course credit limits and student/faculty ratios as described in the Independent Study Task Force Report guidelines could not be applied to the professional schools as currently written. Therefore, an exemption clause was constructed and approved by EPC and with that clause in place, EPC then approved campus wide adoption of the ISTFR. This work is captured in Faculty Council Resolution 2013-06 entitled “On Campus-wide Implementation of the Recommendations of the 2012 independent Study Task Force” approved by FC on March 8, 2013.

4. **Priority Registration:** This item was a carry-over from the 2011-2012 academic year. Theresa Raphael-Grimm, Jennifer Coble and Mark Schoenfisch served with Chris Derickson and Bobbi Owen and reviewed current priority registration practices, assessed impact of current practices on both priority registrants and those not eligible, examined registration data to determine extent of advantage gained by priority registration and examined athletic practice schedules both in and out of competition season. The subcommittee also identified campus groups to which it felt priority registration status should be extended. These concerns were captured in Resolution 2013-1 "On Amending Resolution 2007-13 Pertaining to Priority Registration" approved by Faculty Council on January 11, 2013.
5.  **Blogging:** This has been an ongoing discussion this year as EPC has attempted to further ascertain issues and concerns and determine what other entities on campus are addressing it (University counsel, ITS, etc.) in an effort to more clearly identify EPC's role in recommending policy. Over time it has become clear that it is within those courses that require students to participate in *public* blogging that is of greatest concern and has implications for adherence with FERPA guidelines and with student informed consent considerations. Currently a subcommittee is in place (Jay Smith, chair, Julie Justice and Geetha Vaidyanathan) and is constructing a draft document of blogging guidelines that will eventually be forwarded to University counsel (and other possible entities) for review and advice.

**Other EPC Business Included:**

6. Revision of **Academic Eligibility Standards:** The eligibility standards for continuation as a "student in good standing" were reviewed by EPC in May of 2012. EPC approved the change that the GPA standard of 2.0 be uniform and a set number of hours completed and that this be reflected in the wording of the UNC Undergraduate Bulletin. This activity is reflected in Resolution 2012-10. On Revising the Standards for Continued Academic Eligibility for Undergraduate Enrollment and approved by Faculty Council at the meeting of September 7.
7. **Transcript Remark Change Requests:** These have been processed through EPC (One came from Psychology last summer and another from the Business School in the fall). EPC reviewed these and approved them but called into question whether EPC is the best place to address Transcript Remark Requests. There is a tentative plan to examine this issue in more detail in the 2013-2014 academic year.
8. **Achievement Index:** A formal request was made by an undergraduate student to have EPC reconsider instituting a grade reporting structure that used an achievement index calculation. This was discussed at the December EPC meeting and consensus was that the new Enhanced Grade Reporting structure needed to be fully implemented and evaluated before alternate structures would be reconsidered.

9. **Drop Add Period Timeframe Adjustment:** EPC was notified that the UNC Board of Governors was proposing to institute system wide changes to the drop/add period, shortening it considerably and imposing system wide uniformity. A letter was written by Theresa Raphael-Grimm, on behalf of and approved by EPC, and sent to Provost Carney, that outlined our concerns, including that the Board of Governors was overstepping critical and long established, governing boundaries and their effort represented an attempt to impose system-wide uniformity in educational policy that is both unnecessary and unwarranted.
10. **Tentative Proposal to Change Lifetime Fitness Course Curriculum:** Hunter Gray from the Student Advisory Committee has begun preliminary exploration with EPC of the potential for changing the Lifetime Fitness class to a Lifetime Wellness course that addresses, in part, issues surrounding sexual violence. This will be fully reviewed by EPC once the effort becomes more formalized.

Report respectfully submitted by Theresa Raphael-Grimm, April 10, 2013.