

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Annual Report of the Educational Policy Committee to Faculty Council
April 17, 2020

Membership:

Voting Members: Melinda Beck, Chair (Nutrition, Public Health, 2021); Angela Bardeen (University Library, Libraries, 2021), Adrienne Erickcek (Physics and Astronomy, Arts and Sciences, 2022), Evan Feldman (Music, Arts and Sciences, 2020), Carmen Hsu (Romance Studies, Arts and Sciences, 2020), Patia McGrath (Business, 2021), Rachel Penton (Psychology and Neuroscience, Arts and Sciences, 2022), Nadia Yaqub, Asian Studies, Arts and Sciences, 2022), Meg Zomorodi (Nursing, 2020).

Non-Voting consultants: Katie Cartmell (Associate Director, Office of Student Retention), Sam Johnson (Undergraduate student, appointed 2020), Karson Nelson (Graduate Student, appointed 2020), Abigail Panter (Senior Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences), Christy Samford (Deputy Registrar, Office of the University Registrar, Lauren DiGrazia (Assistant Provost, University Registrar).

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 Coe. The committee's function is advisory to the Faculty Council and the University Registrar.

Summary of activities during the 2019-2020 academic year:

1. A subcommittee of the EPC was formed concerning University Approved Absences. The subcommittee identified criteria that would automatically result in an UAA. With feedback from the full committee and the Dean of Students Office, the policies were implemented and communication went out to faculty either via departmental meetings and/or emails. The UAA is up and running. Suggested that members continue to educate faculty on the policy. There is a FAQ site available-could be added to syllabi.
2. The EPC received regular briefings from the General Education Implementation team. The committee was kept abreast of syllabi reviews for the new curriculum, Triple I course development and implementation. The new Curriculum applies to undergraduates starting in Fall of 2021 and thereafter. A general education oversight subcommittee was formed from the EPC members. Topics discussed degree audit/coding of courses/quires and reports, how to engage transfer students, Triple I courses, marketing and communication, campus life experiences logistics. CFE held workshops and each school has identified a faculty liaison for course submission process, course approval timelines, EDUC 101 updates, implementation goals and timelines, and study abroad. Regular updates were provided on syllabi review for Focus Capacity Requirements and Triple I development and implementation. Faculty Curriculum Guides have been prepared in order to educate faculty on the new general education curriculum.

3. The EPC received regular updates from the registrar. Topics included priority registration and the Provost's operational excellence initiative. The idea is to make registration more transparent for students. A number of "pressure points" were discussed including permission numbers for courses and complexity/confusion around terms in residence. Student frustration with registration has been described as the "Hunger Games". A design team has been implemented to hold focus groups, get student input, monitor what other universities are doing, etc.
4. The EPC was kept updated by Abigail Panter and Katie Cartmell on the modernization of student support and student success. The EPC discussed barriers to student success, including the graduate school policy on academic ineligibility and registration for transfer students.
5. The EPC was provided an overview of online education (digital learning) initiatives at UNC by Todd Nicolet, PhD, Vice Provost for Digital and Lifelong Learning, including vendor selection, organizational structure. There were 3 primary goals discussed: 1) extend learning experiences to new audiences that cannot come to Chapel Hill, 2) improve the quality of all Carolina education, and 3) be financially responsible. A website is established: <https://provost.unc.edu/digital-and-lifelong-learning/>
6. The Data Science@ Carolina initiative was presented to the EPC by Jay Aikat and Gary Marchionini. The Provost charged a committee, led by Terry Magnuson with Andy Johns (Chair) to provide recommendations for how best to allow development of an educational curriculum for Data Science.
7. We are beginning a discussion around policy changes for academic forgiveness.
8. Transfer credit policy updates were provided for proposed changes.

Report Respectfully Submitted by Melinda Beck, April 17, 2020