Resolution 2021-9. On Charging the Educational Policy Committee to Study Class Cancellation Policies and Procedures

The Faculty Executive Committee resolves:

The development of standards and procedures for deciding to cancel classes in response to student and faculty needs is an important matter of educational policy. The matter is hereby referred to the Educational Policy Committee, which shall study the issues and make recommendations to the Faculty Council about a policy or policies addressing such cancellations. The Educational Policy Committee’s study should consider:

1) Existing policies and procedures for class cancellations;
2) Principles for determining when circumstances warrant class cancellation;
3) The appropriate person(s) to make the decision to cancel classes, and the persons or groups that should be consulted about the decision;
4) Any collateral effects of decisions to cancel classes on matters including, but not limited to, accreditation; and
5) Any other matters the committee finds relevant to a policy regarding class cancellation.

Rationale:

The Faculty Code of University Government gives the Faculty Council the authority to “determine the educational policies of the University and the rules and regulations under which administrators and faculty will conduct the educational activities of the University.” Sec. 2-8(a)(1). The Code provides that the Faculty Executive Committee may exercise this authority when prompt action is required, subject to confirmation by the Faculty Council at its next regular meeting. Sec. 2-10(d)(2). The Code further provides that the Educational Policy Committee advises the Faculty Council on matters of educational policy that are referred to it by the Faculty Council for study. Sec. 4-6(b)(1).

Adopted by the Faculty Executive Committee on October 11, 2021 and confirmed by vote of the Faculty Council on November 5, 2021