The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Annual Report of the Educational Policy Committee to Faculty Council
April 2022

Educational Policy Committee, 2021-2022

Members:

- Bardeen, Angela (University Libraries/Libraries), At-Large, term expires 2024
- Cramer, Lorraine (Microbiology & Immunology/Medicine), At-Large, term expires 2024
- Erickcek, Adrienne (Physics & Astronomy/Arts & Sciences), At-Large, term expires 2022
- Fuller, Sarah (Public Policy/Arts & Sciences), At-Large, term expires 2023
- Hsu, Carmen (Romance Studies/Arts & Sciences), At-Large, term expires 2023
- Moracco, Beth (Health Behavior/Public Health), At-Large, term expires 2024
- Penton, Rachel (Psychology & Neuroscience/Arts & Sciences), At-Large, term expires 2022 – CHAIR
- Sawyer, Keith (Education), At-Large, term expires 2022
- Zomorodi, Meg (Nursing), At-Large, term expires 2023
- Lloyd, Chad (Chemistry/Arts & Sciences), Graduate Student, term expires 2022
- Ellington, Noah (Political Science/Arts &Sciences), Undergraduate Student, term expires 2022

Non-Voting Members (Consultants):

- DiGrazia, Lauren (Assistant Provost & University Registrar/Office of the University Registrar)
- Panter, Abigail (Senor Associate Dean/Arts & Sciences)
- Russell, Chloē (Associate Dean & Director/Academic Advising)
- Samford, Christy (Deputy Director/Office of the 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 Code. The committee's function is advisory to the Faulty Council and the University Registrar.

2021-2022 Meetings: September 10, October 8, November 1, December 3, January 21, February 25. A future meeting will be held on April 22.

Summary of activities during the 2021-2022 academic year:

1. Continuing from last year, a subcommittee of the EPC was formed in 2019 concerning University Approved Absences (UAA). 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. In 2020 and continuing this year, likely due to the volume of absences from the COVID-19 pandemic, several issues have arisen with faculty not always honoring the approvals as well as faculty not understanding that they can approve absences beyond the UAA. The EPC subcommittee continued to work to improve communication around the policy this year by creating a plan that involved assessing the FAQs present on the University Approved Absence Office's website, providing suggestions for how to make the FAQs more functional, providing a clarifying document about UAAs to DUS to distribute to their faculty, soliciting further questions from the DUS and their faculty, and presenting at a DUS meeting. From these interactions, the subcommittee has determined that most faculty questions are not about policy, but rather are about difficulties in implementation of make-up work, and advise that the EPC subcommittee work with the Keep Teaching Group and Center for Faculty Excellence to provide additional resources and support for faculty. Additionally, the EPC subcommittee determined that a student communication plan is needed so that students can understand the policy and the EPC subcommittee should continue to include the student members of the EPC. The subcommittee will continue to provide information to Chairs/DUS/Deans/Faculty Council.

2. EPC was charged by the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) with researching and reporting on Class Cancellation policies. A subcommittee was formed to understand current class cancellation policies and to put forward recommendations. After the subcommittee researched current policies and consulted with Darryl Jeter (Director of Emergency Management and Planning), a report including recommendations was put together and provided to FEC. Briefly, the report described the current emergency planning policies and plans for their updates and recommended that the EPC be included in the development of Emergency Support Function 16 (ESF-16), which would form a team that is to be consulted in situations when there is time to consult others prior to cancelling classes. Further, the recommendations suggest that this team include the FEC chair, EPM staff, and the Registrar. The subcommittee will continue to discuss the report and recommendations with the FEC.

3. Continuing from last year, EPC is discussing policies regarding applications to undergraduate programs that have a separate admissions process, usually in the spring of the sophomore year. A subcommittee was formed last year to understand the application processes of each program and to determine if best practices are being utilized by admissions committees. Currently, the subcommittee has collected data from programs that require a secondary admissions process. A questionnaire was sent out for information on the admissions process, and applications and admissions from the last three years. The subcommittee will continue to gather information from programs and report back to the entire EPC.

4. 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, FY Thriving course development, Campus Life development, communications and training for the new Curriculum, and technology development. The new

Curriculum applies to undergraduates starting in Fall of 2022 and thereafter. Nick Siedentop (Office of Undergraduate Curricula) provides an Action Stakeholders Report every other month to keep the EPC up to date on General Education Implementation progress.

5. The EPC received regular updates from the University Registrar about the Operational Excellence Improving Registration Project. The new registration model applied to students starting with Spring 2022 registration. Students enroll in 2 waves, in the first two weeks students can enroll in up to 13 credit hours and cannot add themselves to the waitlist for any courses, in the second wave students can enroll in up to 17 credit hours and can add themselves to the waitlist of a course. In this new model, students are assigned registration days based on earned credit hours and their time of day based on semesters in residence. Each registration window on a given day is 3 hours long. The University Registrar will continue to provide updates to EPC about the new registration model on an as needed basis.

6. A new priority registration group was approved for spring 2022 international students. With Carolina Away eliminated, a small population (~30 students) of international students who are not in-country still needed remote courses. This was to allow these students to select remote courses and those courses being held a time that fits their time zone. This is only temporary—it is not a permanent early registration population.

7. The pass/fail deadline for spring 2022 was extended past the 8th week (March 7, 2022) and moved to LDOC (April 27, 2022). This was done to allow students additional time to make PS/F decisions given the disruptiveness of the Covid-19 Omicron wave at the beginning of the semester. All EPC members were unanimous in their support of this recommendation.

8. The University Registrar presented revisions of two University Policy Memorandums (UPMs) to the EPC. First, an update was made to the Standard Course and Section Numbering Systems (UPM #4) to add 01F-099F First Year Launch Course so that this set of courses for the new General Education Curriculum could be added. Second, four updates were made to The Grading System (UPM #24): (1) the language was updated from P/F/+D fail to P/F; (2) language was added to support the grading accommodations for Covid; (3) language was updated so that AB (absent from final examination) and IN (incomplete) grades will not be counted as an F grade in the GPA; and (4) NE (no grade expected) and NR (no grade recorded) grades were added. These were updated on the Registrar's website after EPC feedback.

9. EPC is continuing a discussion around policy changes for grade repeat rule/academic forgiveness.

Report Respectfully Submitted by Rachel Penton, April 5, 2022.