

# Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Policy

## 2016-2017 Academic Year

The Educational Policy Committee met on September 16, 2016; October 14, 2016; November 11, 2016; December 9, 2016; January 13, 2017; February 10, 2017; and April 14, 2017.

### 1. FACE TIME/CREDIT HOUR POLICY

At the request of Deputy Provost Terry Murphy, the Committee discussed the proposed Face Time/Credit Hour Policy necessitated by the upcoming Middle States Accreditation Review and the Department of Education regulation. After a robust discussion, the Committee concurred with the general approach being recommended by the Provost's Office (specifically, the inclusion in all course syllabi of the specific face time and outside-class time expectations in compliance with Department of Education standards), and offered several suggestions about implementation.

### 2. FIRST-YEAR ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY

In conjunction with the GW Student Association, the Committee developed and forwarded Senate Resolution 17/2 to provide freshmen and first-year transfer students carefully-circumscribed forgiveness for a single course in which the grade earned was D+ or lower. This resolution was subsequently unanimously passed by the Faculty Senate, which asked that the policy be reviewed after three years to see how it was being used. The Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Subcommittee which performed the "heavy lifting" in developing this Resolution: Beth Amundson, Cheryl Beil, Thomas Falcigno, Randi Kristensen, Robert Phillips, and Oliver Street, in conjunction with University Editor Gina Harris.

### 3. MEETING WITH CIO STEINOUR AND AVP ROLJEVIC

The Committee met with Chief Information Officer David Steinour and Associate Vice President Jelena Roljevic regarding several issues regarding information policy. Concerns were expressed by the Committee about the impact of possible Banner changes (such as a rollback in Banner "mods") on faculty members' ability to adequately execute their responsibilities. Mr. Steinour noted that a major rollback in Banner mods was not imminent, and suggested that as the release of Banner XE is approaching, this may be a good time to have a conversation about switching to another system (although administrative discussions were still in the early stages). The Committee also expressed the view that Blackboard needed to be fully funded, which Mr. Steinour acknowledged.

### 4. DISCUSSION WITH PROFESSOR SIMHA

The Committee met with Professor Rahul Simha, the faculty lead from the Teaching and Learning Center, who presented the criteria for excellence in teaching and how this relates to guidelines in promotions. He noted that the wording in this area of the code was unclear and is open to interpretation with regard to what constitutes excellence in teaching and how professors are promoted based on these criteria. After an extensive discussion, the Committee agreed that the issue should be raised with Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom, which is responsible for overseeing the faculty code.

### 5. STUDENT RETENTION POLICY

The Committee met with Senior Associate Vice Provost Koehler and Office of Enrollment Retention Director Oliver Street to discuss ways in which GW's retention rates could be improved. This has become an issue of paramount importance to the University administration, and the administration is seeking the Faculty's assistance in addressing the issue.

### 6. POLICY ON ONLINE COURSE AND PROGRAM CURRICULAR STANDARDS

The Committee received and reviewed the Final Report of the joint Educational Policy-PEAF Task Force, created to look into the extent to which current policies regarding curricular standards are adequate to ensure academic quality control of online courses. Representatives from the Educational Policy Committee included: Cheryl Beil, Rene van Dorp<sup>1</sup>, Zhiyong Han, Candice Johnson, and Lilien Robinson. The Committee felt that more contextualization was needed, and that a discussion with Chairperson Darr (who was unable to attend this meeting) would be helpful. Professor Darr has been invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

### 7. DISCUSSION WITH PROVOST MALTZMAN

The Committee discussed with Provost Maltzman a wide range of issues, including (among many others) the Academic Forgiveness Policy, legacy policies which may be operating to the detriment of GW students, the impact of the Unified Budget on cross-school graduate enrollments, the re-alignment of the Faculty Learning Community, the relative importance accorded to the University's educational mission, and the relationship between online and on-campus teaching.

Respectfully Submitted, Philip W. Wirtz, Chair

Scott Beveridge, Counseling	Andrew Smith, Classics
Geoffrey Carter, English	Johan René van Dorp, Engineering Management and Systems Engineering
Thomas Falcigno, GW Student Association	Philip Wirtz, Decision Sciences
Zhiyong Han, Biochemistry	Anthony Yezer, Economics
Rick Jakemon, Educational Leadership	
Candice Johnson, MISPH (Online Learning)	<i>Ex-Officio:</i>
Randi Kristensen, University Writing Program	Elizabeth Amundson, Registrar
Michelle McGarry, SMHS	Cheryl Beil, Associate Provost
Keith Mortman, Surgery	Michael Feuer, GSEHD Dean
Robert Phillips, Economics	Peter Konwerski, Vice Provost
Lilien Robinson, Fine Arts and Art History	Forrest Maltzman, Provost
Mary Jean Schumann, Nursing	Marie Price, Geography (Executive Committee Liaison)
Ormond Seavey, English	Dan Small, Student Financial Assistance
Megan Siczek, English for Academic Purposes	Oliver Street, Enrollment Retention

<sup>1</sup> AY 2015-2016