Annual Report (2021-2022)
GW Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Policy & Technology

The Committee on Educational Policy and Technology ("EPT") has had another full year, convening for a total of 11 meetings, including two during the summer months of June and July. Our final meeting for AY 2021-2022 was held on April 8, 2022, and the AY 2022-2023 committee will convene with a meeting in May 2022.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Note: During the regular academic year (September – April), EPT's monthly agendas routinely contained updates from the five subcommittees that were either established this year or were continuing work from the previous year. A summary for each is provided in **Section II** below on the subcommittees.

Summer Meetings
The committee chairs thank the members of the committee for their dedication, flexibility, and willingness to hold meetings during the summer months to respond to the changing circumstances brought about by the pandemic. The principal focus of the May, June, and July meetings was providing input into plans to reopen in person at the start of the Fall 2021 semester. As detailed in EPT's Fall 2021 Interim Report committee members provided significant feedback throughout the summer to Senior Associate Provost for Special Projects Koren Bedeau and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Terry Murphy.

At the May 21, 2021 meeting, Sarah Wagner and Jason Zara reported that the Post-COVID Academic Innovation Task Force had completed its work and presented the report to Provost Bracey. The report listed its key findings as: the importance of having an in-person experience in Washington, D.C.; a desire for continued flexibility in learning, teaching, and working; support for a continued "culture of empathy"; and an engaged university community eager to be consulted on the future of GW. As noted below, emphasis on the in-person learning experience, flexibility, empathy, and consultation arose in subsequent committee discussions, including within the subcommittees on class recordings and shared governance.

Fall 2021 Meetings
Much of EPT's fall meetings addressed COVID-19's continued impact on teaching and learning, enrollment (including declines in international student enrollment), class recording policy and accommodations, as well as the overstretched capacities of several of GW's student support services (CARE Team/CAPS; DSS; Vern Express; and advising).

The other major point of concern addressed by the committee during its fall meetings pertained to technology support—namely, concerns related to AT/IT centralization, the surge in tickets, service and support, lack of staff, faculty perspective, and computer replacements. At the October meeting,

the Technology Subcommittee provided an update and emphasized the importance of involving all stakeholders in future discussions of reorganization. Eric Grynaviski, the subcommittee chair, presented a report documenting the above-listed concerns to the Faculty Senate during its November 12 Faculty Senate meeting and again to EPT on November 18th.

The committee also worked over the winter break to provide feedback on faculty experiences of Fall 2021 instruction. The chairs circulated a survey to faculty members on the committee ("EPT Fall 2021 Instructor Feedback"), which faculty members completed before the beginning of the spring semester. Results are presented under the **Spring 22 Meetings** section below.

Spring 2022 Meetings

At the January 14 meeting, EPT chairs presented the findings of the "EPT Fall 2021 Instructor Feedback" survey for discussion with Senior Vice Provost Murphy. The report listed the top five issues of concern for faculty (in order of frequency) as follows: (1) classroom technology; (2) class attendance; (3) needs of students experiencing mental health issues; (4) student expectations of attending class remotely (due to physical or mental health reasons); and (5) adequacy of resources to meet the needs of students. These concerns echo – and complicate – the PCAITF report, the CARE Team/CAPS report both to EPT and the Faculty Senate in the Fall, as well as the technology subcommittee findings presented to the Faculty Senate in November and discussions held within the class recording subcommittee (see below in **Section II**).

At the February 11 meeting, the committee was briefed by the technology subcommittee on the GWIT tracking program from Fall 2021 that has since been shut down and associated data destroyed:

- The program tracked wireless data, combined with other data. Although the company (Degree Analytics) policy states that use of its tools requires consent, transparency, and ability to opt out, these were not implemented at GW.
- Violations of GW privacy policy apparent.
- GW is currently moving toward use of CISCO Digital Network Architecture (DNA) that will provide more specific data using existing network of GW Access Points located across campus. Again, this program raises potential privacy, consent concerns.
- Need to prevent future violations of privacy.
- Concern about data security; efforts to implement anonymization of data are insufficient.

The committee agreed that there is a need for broader inquiry into privacy policies and their enforcement. The technology subcommittee chair subsequently presented a report on "Tracking and Student Privacy" at the Faculty Senate meeting on February 18; in that same meeting, EPT member Jamie Cohen-Cole introduced a resolution on "Educational Policy, Ethics, Technology, and Privacy Violations," to the Faculty Senate, which FSEC directed to EPT. The resolution was circulated to EPT members with the March agenda and will be discussed during the April meeting. In the March 11 meeting, the committee also briefly discussed the formation of a committee to address GW's privacy policy (co-chaired by Terry Murphy, Sr. Vice Provost, and Jared Johnson, Interim Chief Technology Officer).

In that same meeting (February 11), the committee discussed the relationship between housing and enrollment planning and heard from members who had toured residential halls to gain a better sense of the current housing crunch. As one member concluded, "An important bottom line here is that

we need to resurrect the idea of building the new dorm." Chair of the subcommittee Jamie Cohen-Cole subsequently presented a report outlining the committee's findings and concerns at the Faculty Senate's February 18 meeting.

At the March 11 meeting, the committee voted unanimously to approve changes to the Code of Academic Integrity (see below). Among other points, they included a more nuanced definition of plagiarism.

At the April 8 meeting, the Committee voted on its Annual Report to the Faculty Senate, discussed and on Prof. Jamie Cohen-Cole's resolution on "Educational Policy, Ethics, Technology, and Privacy Violations," (the committee voted to postpone deliberation on the resolution to EPT's next session AY 2022-2023), heard a report from the Shared Governance subcommittee on its list of EPT-related items where there must be shared governance, and heard a presentation by Abigail Francis, Executive Secretary of Academic Affairs of the GWU Student Association, on a Student Association proposal for a Human Diversity Requirement to be added to the general education requirements of the university. The presentation is here.

II. SUBCOMMITTEES

- *Technology (AT/IT):* [chaired by Eric Grynaviski] In the Fall, the committee discussed matters related to technology support—namely, concerns related to AT/IT centralization and reorganization, the surge in tickets, service and support, lack of staff, faculty perspective, and computer replacements. In the Spring, the committee discussed continued service and support challenges. In February, the subcommittee has a special meeting to discuss the tracking program on campus. In March, the subcommittee met to discuss service and support, academic technology, and the new identity management system. The two-domain problem faced by graduate students was also discussed. The continued issue is that there are insufficient resources to meet needs. One challenge is that funds spent on AT are funds not spent in other areas such as support for students (e.g., dorm wifi) and administration (e.g., enrollment systems); we will need to assess the prioritization of needs and develop a better system for doing so.

- *Future Enrollment Planning*: [chaired by Jamie Cohen-Cole] The majority of this committee's work took place during the Fall 2021 semester. Points of discussion included, among others, dipping international enrollments; fundraising efforts related to Pell Grants, and a plan to meet full needs to be phased in over the next five years; the relationship between limited housing/DC housing cap and future enrollment planning. Members noted that if GWU recruits an entering group of students for 2022 that is of the same size as entered in 2021, then GWU's total enrollment will further decline with likely significant negative effects on revenue, retention, student services, care staff, financial aid, and overall student experience. In the spring, the committee observed that market basket universities meet full need and raised the question of whether GWU should use increased outlay of operational funds rather than relying only on fund raising to meet demonstrated need. Additionally, the subcommittee and then EPT affirmed the following statement:

    > *EPT and the subcommittee are concerned that current enrollment targets may be insufficient to meet the University's short- and long-term goals and encourage the administration to review the possibility*

of increasing proximal enrollment targets. Having observed the damage that decreasing housing stock and enrollments have caused to student experience, to university budgets, and to some academic programs; having noted the ways that student housing capacity is linked to the university's ability to decide the size of the enrollment it wants; EPT and the subcommittee recommend that the university set as a goal creating a larger housing stock in order to provide for a more robust student experience and future flexibility with respect to enrollment planning. To accomplish this goal, the university needs to ensure that Mitchell and Madison Halls remain in use as dorms (except for necessary renovations) and also strongly consider the need for a new residence hall, such as that which is already designed and zoned.

- *Shared Governance* [chaired by Mountasser Kadrie] In conjunction with on-going Faculty Senate discussions and the recently established Shared Governance Task Force, the subcommittee sought to clarify EPT's concerns/expectations regarding shared governance. Consulting meeting minutes and meeting with faculty leaders of the Shared Governance Task Force, the committee compiled a list of items that fall under EPT-related/defined shared governance and prioritized them (see attached). They compared these items with the recent results of the Shared Governance Task Force Survey and provided some thoughtful feedback to the larger committee on the shared governance taskforce report at the April 8 meeting.

- *Academic Integrity Code Review*: This subcommittee was reconvened in AY2021-2022 to consider questions that have arisen since the adoption of the revised code. They met regularly during the Fall 2021 semester and early Spring 2022. In the February 11 meeting, Aaron Howell on behalf of Christy Anthony, Director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, presented the proposed changes to the Academic Code of Conduct after extensive work by the subcommittee and other SSR staff. These revisions were subsequently presented and discussed by several other entities (the Student Association, the Deans Council, etc.). In the March 11 meeting, the committee reviewed and deliberated the resolution on the revised Code of Academic Integrity, introduced by Christy Anthony. The resolution passed by unanimous consent and was sent to the full Senate for deliberation at the April 8, 2022 meeting (see below under **Resolutions presented to the Faculty Senate**).

- *Joint PEAF-EPT Subcommittee on Class Recording*: EPT chairs met with their counterparts from PEAF as well as attended a Student Association joint student-faculty information-gathering meeting on the subject on November 18, and again at the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester. The EPT wing of the subcommittee subsequently determined that it would pursue the topic according to EPT-specific questions and concerns regarding intellectual property and privacy; pedagogical impact and efficacy; student expectations; and DSS accommodations. The subcommittee met twice during the Spring 2022 semester to review resources compiled, and preliminary findings were presented to the full committee in the March 11 meeting. The subcommittee should seek representation on the new committee being established by Senior Vice Provost Murphy to study hybrid teaching, lecture recording, online posting of class recordings, the demand from students (DSS or otherwise) for remote instruction even in an in-person class, and the instructional and technology resources needed to meet such demands.

Resolutions presented to the Faculty Senate
1. The committee reviewed and deliberated the "Redline of Proposed Changes"and unanimously voted to approve Resolution 22/12, "To Approve Changes to the Code of Academic Integrity." The resolution will be presented to the Faculty Senate in the April 8, 2022 meeting.

Continuing Business for the Committee
1. Establishment of clearer policies for class recording, posting of such recordings and provision of DSS accommodations to students
2. Follow up on adequacy of academic technology support
3. By unanimous consent, the committee voted on April 8 to postpone further consideration of and action on Faculty Senate Resolution on "Educational Policy, Ethics, Technology, and Privacy Violations" (attached at the end of this report) until EPT's next session (AY 2022-2023).
4. Follow up on GW Student Association proposal for a Human Diversity requirement to be added to the general education requirements
5. Longer-term: What does residential education mean post-COVID?

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Wagner and Irene Foster
Co-Chairs, EPT Committee
April 8, 2022

Roster of EPT Members (2021-2022)

	Fujita, Megan	Rao, Yuan
	Ganjoo, Rohini	Robinson, Lilien
Amundson, Beth	Goff, Jay	Schultheiss, Katrin*
Aviv, Eyal	Greiff, Tobias	Schumann, Mary Jean
Badie, Sameh	Griesshammer, Harald*	Schwartz,Lisa
Bandyopadhyay, Bidhan	Grynaviski, Eric*	Seavey, Ormond
Bankole, Ayo	Johnson, Candice	Siczek, Megan
Beil, Cheryl	Johnson, Jared	Smith, Andrew
Beveridge, Scott	Kadrie, Mountasser	Stebbins, Heather
Bhati, Sue	Kastrinakis, Mariana	Thorpe, Jane Hyatt
Cohen-Cole, Jamie*	Knestrick, Joyce	Toll, Ben
Core, Cynthia	Lotrecchiano, Guy	Ullman, Daniel
Dimri, Manjari	Martinez, Gustavo	Velez, Joe
Dobrydneva, Yuliya	Murphy, Terry	Wirtz, Phil*
Doering, Michael	Nicholas, Janis	Wolfe, Zachary
Driscoll, Michael	Packer, Randall	Zielinski, Piotr
Edmundson-Wright, Georgette	Padovano, Cara	Galston, Miriam
Ensor, Brian	Phillips, Robert	Zara, Jason
Feuer, Michael	Pintz, Christine	
Foster, Irene	Posey, Laurie	
Foster, Meghan	Quinlan, Scott	