



## **Faculty Senate Committee on Education Policy and Technology Annual Report (2020-2021)**

The Committee on Educational Policy and Technology had a full year, convening throughout the summer months and during the academic year for a total of 12 meetings. Our final meetings of 2020-2021 are scheduled for April 16 and May 7, 2021. The committee chairs thank the members for their flexibility and willingness to hold meetings during the summer and with very short notice in order to respond appropriately to the changing circumstances brought about by the pandemic.

### **Responding to COVID-19's impact on teaching and learning**

Much of the summer meetings was taken up with responding to COVID-19 — this included:

- consultation and updates regarding transition to virtual learning, including updates on faculty and student intention and experience survey results;
- updates on the suspension of study abroad and international programs;
- the academic calendar for the Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021;
- the pass/no pass policy for undergraduate and graduate students;
- its impact on enrollment and study abroad and international programs; and
- updates and input regarding the post-COVID Academic Task Force.

### **University Policy on Religious Accommodations**

The committee's student representative Nicole Cennamo presented a resolution to expand the university policy on religious accommodations. The resolution was modified and passed by the committee and then passed the Faculty Senate by unanimous consent in the November 11, 2020 meeting (see below).

### **Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct and Code of Academic Integrity**

In the May 11, 2020 meeting, the committee began with a discussion on necessary revisions to the Student Code of Conduct with Christy Anthony. A subcommittee of EPT was formed to work with Christy to develop suggested changes to the code.

In the November 11, 2020 meeting, Christy Anthony, Director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, presented the amended Academic Code of Conduct after extensive work by a subcommittee of EPT. The revisions were subsequently presented and discussed by several other entities (the Student Association, the Deans Council, etc.). In the February 19, 2021 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 full Senate for deliberation in the March 12, 2021 meeting (see below).

### **Future Enrollment Task Force**

Members of the Provost-appointed Future Enrollment Task Force, Jay Goff, Phil Wirtz, and Jamie Cohen-Cole regularly presented the committee with enrollment updates.

In the January 29, 2021 meeting, the committee was updated on the task force's recent work, including its recommended enrollment targets. After discussing them, the committee formally endorsed those recommendations that task force presented for enrollment goals: 2475-2250 first years, 150-300 transfers, to maintain or improve academic profile, increase the percentage of need met, and maintain or increase the percentage of both Pell eligible and underrepresented minorities as fractions of the new cohort. In the March 12 meeting, the committee discussed the enrollment projections and the use of the waitlist.

As the Future Enrollment Task Force was established as a temporary advisory body, the committee discussed and concluded that regular updates on enrollment management should be reinstated, becoming a regular part of EPT's work as a committee—to receive updates and provide input on current and future enrollments.

### **Post-COVID Academic Innovation Task Force**

In January of 2020, Provost Blake tasked a group with learning about GW and the broader higher ed community's responses to virtual work needs that arose due to COVID and to determine if there were changes to our operations that we should implement to make GW better post-COVID. The EPT committee is well represented on the Post-COVID Academic Innovation Task Force (PCAITF), including with Jason Zara as one of its two co-chairs and Sarah Wagner as a Task Force member. Once formally established, the task force reported its progress to EPT committee. In the February 19 meeting, during the first and most extensive update, EPT members raised some concerns around the makeup of the PCAITF. Those concerns were relayed to the task force at its next meeting and increased efforts were made to ensure extensive outreach through the work of the PCAITF subcommittees.

The task force has been gathering input from various constituents via webforms, town halls, etc. and is working to identify common themes that will lead to suggested implementations of changes. This process is still underway.

### **New Transcript Notation Policy**

In the March 12 meeting, the committee discussed the new transcript notation for undergraduate research initiative, an issue raised in the February 19, 2021 meeting. Gina Lohr, Senior Associate Vice Provost for Research, presented the origin and development of the idea, and recommendations were made for further consultation with the undergraduate deans and the Research Committee, as well as a presentation to the Senate at a later date.

### **Other issues discussed**

- Of particular note, in November 11 meeting, Provost Blake led a discussion with the committee regarding the suspension of academic master plan efforts.
- In the February 19 meeting, the committee heard from Cheryl Beil, Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Assessment, who presented data on student experience, among them satisfaction with academic experience, experience with faculty, advising, availability of classes, extra-curricular activities, and COVID-related academic concerns. These data have also been shared with the Post-COVID Academic Innovation Task Force (PCAITF).
- In the February 19 meeting, the committee discussed an initiative raised by CCAS chairs regarding cluster hires to increase diversity at the university level; work on this is proceeding through multiple Senate committees.
- In the March 12 meeting, the committee discussed the current graduate program budget model,

with particular attention to its limitations regarding enrollment restrictions across schools. EPT will invite the Provost to discuss the issue further at our next meeting.

### **Subcommittees**

The committee currently has three working subcommittees—one is completing its work, and two more are just beginning. These subcommittees are working on the following issues:

- Extending their work on the revisions to the Code of Academic Integrity, the Academic Integrity subcommittee is now discussing the roll out of the revised code for both students and faculty;
- Working with Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Ben Toll, an analysis of the test-optional policy on admitted undergraduate classes; and
- Working with the administration on how best to monitor the effects of last year's AT/IT reorganization.

### **Resolutions presented to the Faculty Senate**

1. The committee deliberated and sent to the full Senate Resolution 21/14 to expand the university policy on religious accommodations, which was passed the Faculty Senate by unanimous consent in the November 13, 2020 meeting.
2. The committee deliberated and sent to the full Senate Resolution 21/15 To Approve Changes to the Code of Academic Integrity, which was passed the Faculty Senate by unanimous consent in the March 12, 2021 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Zara and Sarah Wagner  
Co-Chairs, EPT Committee  
March 31, 2021

### **Roster of EPT Members (2020-2021)**

Beth Amundson	Meghan Foster	Janis Nicholas
Yousif Barzani	Megan Fujita	Randall Packer
Koren Bedeau	Rohini Ganjoo	Christine Pintz
Cheryl Beil	Liz Gonzalez,	Mary Jean Schumann *
Scott Beveridge	Jay Goff	Lisa Schwartz
Brian Blake	Catherine Golden	Ormond Seavey
Nicole Cennamo	Tobias Greiff	Megan Siczek
Jamie Cohen-Cole *	Harald Griesshammer *	Andrew Smith
Manjari Dimri	Candice Johnson	Ben Toll
Yuliya Dobryднева	Jared Johnson	Daniel Ullman
Michael Driscoll	Randi Kristensen	Karen Wyche
Mercedes Echevarria	Lisa Lipinski	Phil Wirtz *
Georgette Edmundson-Wright	Guy Lotrecchiano	Heather Young
Brian Ensor	Joe Velez	Piotr Zielinski
Michael Feuer	Terry Murphy	