



Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Educational Policy and Technology (EPT) Interim Report 2021-2022

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The Committee on Educational Policy and Technology has met 6 times so far this year – on 21 May 2021, 23 June 2021, 23 July 2021, 23 September 2021, 21 October 2021 and 18 November 2021. The final meeting of the semester is scheduled for December 16th, 2021.

I. The primary focus of the **summer meetings (May-July)** was on Fall 2021 re-opening and instructional planning—that is, policies and guidance for our return to largely in-person instruction. The discussions entailed a robust exchange of ideas and information between the committee and representatives from the Provost's Office:

Fall 2021 Instructional Planning: In response to a May 19, 2021, 7-page memo prepared by EPT members entitled, "Fall 2021 Instructional Planning Concerns," Vice Provost Koren Bedeau presented at the May 21st meeting on plans, preparedness, and contingencies regarding whether instruction should in-person, hybrid, or remote. She indicated that all classroom and meeting spaces would be equipped for web-conferencing and lecture-capture. There was also discussion of the Medical Advisory Group's communication regarding vaccination and testing requirements for faculty, students and staff, and the fact that international enrollments fell by 3 percentage points for Fall 2021 (see below on the Future Enrollment Subcommittee), as well as the particular challenges faced by international students. It was agreed that expectations should be made clear to faculty and students since students had expressed a desire for "flexible remote options." In the May meeting it was agreed that messaging should go out in 2-3 weeks. In following up with that meeting's discussions, EPT sent a memo to Vice Provost Bedeau listing all faculty concerns and recommending steps to be taken before Fall 2021.

Planning was further along by the June 23rd meeting, and EPT was invited to provide comments on the messaging going to students and faculty, which they did in the form of a second memo to Vice Provost Bedeau on June 30, 2021. In the June meeting there was additional discussion of masking, testing, campus signage and coordination across all schools on campus. Dr. Imani Cheers (Senior Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education) spoke at the June meeting on campus preparations for the arrival of undergraduates, and how accommodations will be made in small classrooms.

At the July 23rd meeting, Senior Associate Provost Terry Murphy discussed HVAC optimization, vaccine compliance and travel policy. She also addressed sanctions for policy violations, recording of lectures, and restrictions on large gatherings.

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Post-COVID Academic Innovation Task Force Report: At the May 21st meeting, Sarah Wagner and Jason Zara reported that the PCAITF had completed its work and presented the [report](#) to Provost Bracey. In subsequent meetings, it was reported that the task force met with Provost Bracey to discuss the overall report and that the report had been posted to the PCAITF website in order to make it available to the broader community.

II. The fall meetings (September- November) have continued to focus on fall re-opening policies and their implementation; instructional technology; future enrollment planning; and student support services:

Fall re-opening (continued): Senior Associate Provost Murphy provided an update at the September 23rd meeting.

Student support services: The majority of the October 21st meeting was dedicated to presentations and discussion of student support services, namely DSS and CARE/CAPS.

- Dr. Maggie Butler (Director of DSS) provided an update that more than 3000 students are registered to receive services, and also that the office is currently understaffed. The point was raised and confirmed that the Office of Advocacy should only reach out to faculty through DSS.
- Colette Coleman (CARE) and Jessica Parrillo (CAPS) discussed the process for students at the October meeting. Anxiety and related disorders have been more severe this Fall. They are significantly understaffed (e.g., only 11 out of the 18 counselor positions are currently filled).

Instructional technology: In the November 18th meeting, chair of the Technology Subcommittee (see below) shared the report he presented to the Faculty Senate in its November 12th meeting.

Other Issues Discussed

- 1) Students have voted on a resolution pushing for hybrid teaching and lecture recordings.
- 2) What does residential education mean now post-COVID?
- 3) Vern Express delays are impacting students.

III. Subcommittees

- *Technology Subcommittee (AT/IT Subcommittee)*: Eric Grynavski agreed to chair this subcommittee at the June meeting. At the July meeting, Interim Chief Technology Officer Jared Johnson discussed the plan to centralize faculty workstation replacement. The subcommittee has been charged to work with central administration and to report back to the committee. The subcommittee reported back in the September meeting that centralization, the surge in tickets, service and support, lack of staff, faculty perspective and computer replacements are being discussed. At the October meeting, the subcommittee provided an update and emphasized the importance of involving all stakeholders in future discussions of reorganization. The committee will now focus on computer replacement (Faculty Workstation Initiative) and the position of the Chief Data Officer. As mentioned above, the chair presented the same report in the November 18th meeting as he did in the November 12th Faculty Senate meeting.
- *Future Enrollment Planning Committee*: In the September and October meetings, Jay Goff provided an enrollment status updates. Domestic enrollment is steady but international enrollments have declined. The enrollment numbers hit many of GW's strategic targets. This was originally to be co-chaired by Jay Goff and a faculty member. It was agreed at the September meeting that EPT would recommend to the Senate that this subcommittee should be formed. At the October meeting, the Educational Policy Committee co-chairs expressed their appreciation to Jamie Cohen-Cole for his willingness to serve as Chair of this important subcommittee. The subcommittee is assembling membership. The committee

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provided an update at the October meeting that although not as aggressive as other schools, moving forward Pell Grants will meet full needs and be phased in over the next five years. At the November meeting the committee discussed its initial meeting, raised concerns that the arm’s length relationship of the administration to the committee was a less effective representation of shared governance than had occurred in 2020-21, and raised concerns about the 9% reduction in total on campus undergraduate enrollment since 2019. (Please see the figure below, which was included in the November presentation.) 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.

Fall 2021 Enrollment Update

Total Headcount: IPEDS Comparison of 2019, 2020, and 2021

STUDENT CATEGORY	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Diff. # 2019 to 2021	Diff. % 2019 to 2021	Diff. # 2020 to 2021	Diff. % 2020 to 2021
Total Undergraduate*	12,031	11,104	10,929	-1,102	-9.2%	-175	-1.6%
Total Graduate & Professional	15,205	15,177	14,887	-318	-2.1%	-290	-2%
Total Non-Degree	578	736	641	63	10.9%	-106	-13%
Total Enrollment	27,814	27,017	26,457	-1,357	-4.9%	-560	-2.1%

*Total Undergraduate population reported to IPEDS includes the five residential schools plus off campus and online degree completion, and post baccalaureate degrees in SMHS, CPS, and SON.

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- *Shared Governance*: In conjunction with on-going Faculty Senate discussions and the recently established Shared Governance Task Force, the subcommittee is tasked with clarifying EPT’s concerns/expectations regarding shared governance. The subcommittee is assembling membership.
- *Academic Integrity Code Review*: Reconvened to consider questions that have arisen since the adoption of the revised code, this subcommittee has begun to develop recommendations to address those questions; they will present their recommendations to EPT in Spring 2022.
- *Joint PEAFF-EPT Subcommittee on Class Recording*: The subcommittee is currently assembling membership, and EPT chairs have met with their counterparts from PEAFF as well as attended a Student Association joint student-faculty information-gathering meeting on the subject on November 18th.

Resolutions presented to the Faculty Senate

None

New Business

On October 1st 2021 the Faculty Senate Executive Committee charged the committee with the following:

1. Joint with the Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom committee, consider the issue of whether GW can mandate the recording of classroom interactions (and post them online).

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2. Joint with the Research and University & Urban Affairs committees, investigate how GW is working to collaborate with Amazon HQ2 and to navigate competition from other local universities.
3. Through the relevant subcommittee, continue to monitor issues around academic and information technology.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Wagner and Irene Foster
Co-Chairs, EPT
December 1st, 2021