

Report to the Faculty Senate from the Education Policy Committee, 2025-26

1. Title:

Educational Policy Committee

2. Mission: 1.3.2.1 Educational Policy Committee

The committee on educational policy attends to such matters as are referred to it by the Faculty Senate, by college faculties, by faculty regulations, or by the president. The committee is responsible for the study of the university curriculum, long-range academic plans, and undergraduate academic rules and regulations. The committee will make appropriate recommendations to the president and the Faculty Senate.

As needed, the committee advises and assists with the Offices of International Affairs and Study Abroad by: 1) examining proposals, programs, courses, initiatives, and policies pertaining to Study Abroad; 2) developing and implementing quality criteria for Study Abroad programs; 3) ensuring alignment between university academic policies and study abroad policies and credit recognition; and 4) consulting with faculty in respective colleges on a core of acceptable and available programs that meet the curricular needs of each college. Where needed, the committee may consult with the Director of Study Abroad Programs, the Chair of the Modern Languages and Literature Department, or other relevant program leaders.

3. List of members with affiliations

Voting Members:

- Marina Puzakova, Chair, COB, 2027
- Todd Watkins, COB Representative, 2028
- Lucy Napper, CAS Representative, 2026
- Daniel Babcock, CAS Representative, 2028 (Chair-elect)
- Khurram Hussain, CAS Representative, 2026
- Joanna Mishtal, COH Representative, 2027
- Erica Hoelscher, COH Representative, 2028
- Paolo Bocchini, RCEAS Representative, 2026
- Lifang He, RCEAS Representative, 2028
- Edmund Webb, RCEAS Representative, 2028
- Tom Hammond, COE Representative
- Naomi Rothman, Associate Dean, COB
- Kelly Austin, Associate Dean, CAS
- Derick Brown, Associate Dean, RCEAS
- Michael Gusmano, Associate Dean, COH

Undergraduate Student Representatives:

- COB: Corrie Vakil
- COB: Clinton Graham
- CAS: Mariana Roldan
- COE: Kylie Mirabele

Graduate Student Representatives:

- Olivia Grimes, Graduate Student Representative, CAS
- Amanda Baran, Graduate Student Representative, CAS

4. Accomplishments during academic year 2025-2026

- 1) The membership list was completed with new members, including graduate student representatives, identified and placed. We were unable to obtain a representative from the IC programs.
- 2) The committee reviewed and voted on numerous course (354 entries) and program (94 entries) proposals or changes throughout the year. The approved cases were sent to ASA of the Faculty Senate.
- 3) The committee reviewed the guidelines regarding 0-credit provisional courses (Ed Pol minutes from 2021), voted in favor of approving a request from Music and Theatre department regarding a 0-credit provisional course that meets the standards of special circumstances.
- 4) The committee reviewed and proposed to modify the workflow for approval of IC courses.
- 5) The committee reviewed and proposed to modify the workflow for submitting special topics courses in CIM.
- 6) The committee reviewed Graduate certificate R&P language.
- 7) The Committee reviewed and proposed changes to the Senate working group on R&P 3.2.1 (Courses and Curriculum).
- 8) Registration priority. The Committee discussed a possibility for a new R&P Policy in September 2025.
- 9) Reviewed Common hour exam policy, polled all faculty. There have been concerns expressed about the cap of 100 students. The history of this cap is that it was communicated to the Registrar Office that has since been working with this directive. Based on the discussion, the EdPol recommendation: the practice in place is not consistent with the R&P and for this reason the practice should be revised.
- 10) The Committee began discussion of the proposed revision for R&P 3.2.5 Attendance Policy and put together a document to reflect these revisions.
- 11) The Committee proposed, reviewed, and approved changes to the following R&P (including one new proposed policy on Special topics), and forwarded them to the Faculty Senate:
 - a. 1.3.2.1 (Educational Policy Committee)
 - b. 3.21.1 (Graduate Admissions and 4+1 programs)
 - c. 3.1.4.2 Undergraduate Leave of Absence (reviewed and updated twice based on FSEC's requests for clarifications)
 - d. 3.20.1 Graduation Requirements
- 12) The Committee proposed, reviewed, and approved changes to the following R&P and forwarded them to GRC (for further approval before sending them to the Faculty Senate):
 - a. 3.8.4 Add/Drop Period
 - b. 3.6 Provisional course and 3.6.2 Special topics (new policy)

- 13) The Committee began discussion regarding the use of teaching evaluations as the tool for teaching improvement (vs. teaching evaluation).
- 14) The Committee invited the following guests on issues of interest to EdPol:
 - a) September 18th: Frank Gunter, Discussion of revisions to 3.2.1 (Changes in Curricula or Courses)
 - b) September 18th: Michael Jorgensen, Discussion of provisional 0-credit courses (Theatre and Music Departments)
 - c) October 30th: Angela Hicks (Mathematics Department). Discussion of Summer Proctoring Challenges in the Math Department
 - d) February, 26th: Dave Angstadt. Discussion of the Common Hour Exams
 - e) March 26th and April, 9th, Christopher Mulvihill to discuss and revise R&P 3.8.4 Add/Drop Period.

5. Description of faculty service involved in EdPol

- 1) EdPol held 70-minute hybrid meetings every two weeks throughout AY 25-26.
- 2) The members volunteered and took turns to take and generate the meeting minutes.
- 3) Four members (Associate deans of the four undergraduate colleges) of the committee served as the Course and Curriculum sub-committee.

6. Any additional information about EdPol that would be valuable to the Senate:

- 1) There are ongoing discussions regarding revisions to the following R&P that may be further addressed by EdPol during the next academic year: 3.2.5 (Attendance policy) and 3.14.5.1 (Apprentice teaching).
- 2) New topics that remain on the EdPol agenda are: 1) the use of teaching evaluations as the tool for teaching improvement (vs. teaching evaluation) and 2) the appropriate use zero-course credits.

Respectfully submitted,
Marina Puzakova
EdPol Chair, 25-26
May 7, 2026