

Report to the Faculty Senate from the Education Policy Committee, 2023-24

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:

- Sibel Pamukcu, Chair, RCEAS, 2024
- Fathima Wakeel, Chair-elect, COH, 2025
- Russ McIntire, COH Representative, 2024
- Natalya Vinokurova, COB Representative, 2024
- Ahmed Rahman, COB Representative, 2025
- Ivan Biaggio, CAS Representative, 2025
- Nobuko Yamasaki, CAS Representative, 2024
- Lucy Napper, CAS Representative, 2026
- Tom Hammond, COE Representative, 2024
- Paolo Bocchini, RCEAS Representative, 2026
- Angela Brown, RCEAS Representative, 2024
- Naomi Rothman, Associate Dean, COB
- Kelly Austin, Associate Dean, CAS
- Derick Brown, Associate Dean, RCEAS
- Michael Gusmano, Associate Dean, COH

Undergraduate Student Representatives:

- Arielle Kutler, CAS
- Ibtihal Gasseem, COH
- Braylon Ware, RCEAS
- Julia Ngo, COB

4. Accomplishments during academic year 2023-2024

- 1) The membership list was completed with new members identified and placed. One additional undergraduate representation for intercollegiate programs was approved and proposed R&P change was sent to the Senate.
- 2) Lehigh Launch program was discussed with program participants and stake holders. Current difficulties such as access to first-year resources and overload requirements for program students were identified and recommendations were made.
- 3) The committee reviewed and voted on numerous (more than 500 entries) new courses and program proposals or changes to existing courses and programs throughout the year. The approved cases were sent to ASA of the Faculty Senate. Notably, the following are examples of reviewed and approved cases:
 - i) IDEAS: Program Change Request: It was approved to free up 12 credits to provide IDEAS students with free electives (i.e., 4 credits removed from each of the current CAS concentration, Engineering concentration, and math/science core requirements)
 - ii) IC-COH-COB Degree Program: was reviewed and approved. The program is more integrated than a minor. The program contains a Business Core, a Health Policy Core, Integrated Seminars, and an Integrated Capstone. Five new courses are being developed as part of this program (three in COB, one integrated seminar, and one integrated capstone).
 - iii) Distribution Requirements for CAS/CoH dual degrees. The proposed catalog changes cannot run through CIM, so it was considered separately. Historically, only CAS offered BA degrees. This new joint major will create a BA in CoH as well. Members of CAS and CoH have collaborated to work out distribution requirements across the two colleges, resolving overlaps/duplications. The EdPol approved catalog changes were sent to the Senate -to go through a first reading / second reading process.
- 4) Update on modified substantive review option, which does not require ASA approval - an optional “shortcut” was discussed and resolved. CIM and R&P matching is currently being worked on by a vendor. In the meantime, the registrar’s office offers a shortcut for entering substantive changes for modified substantive review which entails categorizing a proposed change as a substantive one when submitting it in CIM and then submitting a support ticket at <https://go.lehigh.edu/regticket>. Following the ticket submission, the registrar’s office will remove the ASA approval step from the process.
- 5) EdPol took on the task of providing guidance on the differentiation between the provisional and special/advanced topics courses. A sub-committee consisting of one member from each college, and the Registrar as consultant, was formed to investigate the following specific issues:
 - A. Consistency in naming
 - B. Consistency in numbering
 - C. Avoid one-off low-credit courses for students who need one credit to graduate.
 - D. Distinguish between independent study and special topics.

The sub-committee reached consensus for change in R&P that specifies that the limit for provisional courses to be offered “2 times within 2 years”, whereas the current policy states only “2 years”. The committee could not reach a consensus on the nature and definition of a “special topic” course. The current system appears to serve the needs of some “edge cases” including the course offerings of visiting faculty. The subcommittee recommended postponing this matter to address in future on case basis as they arise.

6) The Committee proposed, reviewed, and approved changes to the following R&P, and forwarded them to the Faculty Senate:

- i) 3.1.4.2 Undergraduate Leave of Absence
- ii) 3.6 Provisional Courses
- iii) 3.7.3.2 Make-ups for Final Examinations
- iv) 3.8.4 Drop/Add Period
- v) 3.10 Scholastic Probation
- vi) 3.14.5.1 Apprentice Teaching
- vii) 3.15.1 Summer Session
- viii) 3.15.2 Winter Intersession
- ix) 1.3.2.1 Educational Policy Committee
- x) 1.3.3.1 Committee on Standing of Undergraduate Students
- xi) 1.3.3.2 Committee on Standing of Graduate Students

7) The Committee invited and/or hosted various speakers on issues of interest to EdPol. The following speakers were hosted throughout the year:

- Sept 21, 23: Jennifer Jensen and Lehigh Launch students – Lehigh Launch Report
- Oct 5, 23: Cheryl Matherly, David Casagrande, Katy Rene – Lehigh Launch Ecuador & OIA
- Oct 19, 23: Kwynsky Miguel - University Climate Ambassador at the Global Climate Pledge - General Education requirement centered around sustainability.
- Nov 2, 23: Nathan Urban – University rankings and the expected role of the Educational Policy Committee in Lehigh’s Strategic Plan.
- Nov 30, 23: Megan Baguso, Ibtihal Gasseem - Presentation from student members of EdPol regarding issues of concern on educational policies communicated to them by their constituents.
- Feb 1, 24: Henry Odi, Marci Levine, Joan Ramage – Status of DEI initiatives
- Feb 15, 24: Terry Ann Jones - Introduction to the proposed Exploratory Semester for First Year Students.
- Feb 29, 24: Julia Ngo and Kevin Dotel – presentation on the need to add a student member representing IC programs in EdPol.
- Apr 11, 24: Mark Snyder, Associate Dean for Graduate Education, RCEAS – Explore 4+1 programs and potential role of EdPol.

5. Recommendations for improving the committee.

(N/A)

6. Description of faculty service involved in EdPol.

- a) EdPol held 80-minute hybrid meetings every two weeks throughout AY 23-24.
- b) The members volunteered and took turns to take and generate the meeting minutes.
- c) Four members (Associate Chairs of the 4 colleges) of the committee served as Course and Curriculum sub-committee.

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

(N/A)

Respectfully submitted,
Sibel Pamukcu
EdPol Chair, 23-24
April 26, 2024