Meeting monthly, the Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) tackled a series of large and small issues this year. Following is a summary of EPC business.

Composition of Committee
EPC added the director of advising as an ex-officio member of the committee. This was affirmed by a full faculty vote. Bylaw wording on graduate student representation was modified to reflect current practice.

SIS Privacy
EPC passed a resolution, affirmed by a faculty vote, that advisers shall have access to the transcripts and educational records of their advisees; that appropriate departmental staff (i.e., those designated by the chair or program director) shall have access to the transcripts and educational records of students in the majors they serve; and that chairs, program directors, and deans shall have access to the academic records of all students. Such access is necessary given the responsibilities of the adviser and the department and program leadership to monitor and promote student progress. For those with access, the administration will formulate guidelines for appropriate use of student records.

Block Schedule Change
At the request of the language departments, EPC investigated a modest change in the block schedule. After reaching out to all potentially affected parties, the committee voted against making any change to the block schedule.

Course Numbering Change
EPC voted to revise the Bulletin to reflect a change in course numbering policy. This change will allow undergraduate students to take graduate-level courses toward an undergraduate degree.

Honors Thesis Reforms
EPC passed a resolution, affirmed by a faculty vote, to do the following.

- To reduce the minimum number of faculty serving on a thesis committee from three to two. Students may choose to have a larger committee if so doing serves their project.
- To raise the eligibility threshold for writing a thesis from one semester to two semesters on the Dean’s List.
- Explicitly to allow thesis defenses to take place during reading period.

The committee also did the following.

- Discussed with Dean of Admissions Lee Coffin issues arising from our policies on AP credits.
- Discussed with Professor Harry Bernheim the activities of the Arts and Sciences Committee on Outcome Evaluation.

• Discussed with Director of Advising Kate Nash issues of quality of premajor advising, and faculty workload and responsibility for advising.

• At Dean Reitman’s request, advised on a clarification of the policy on penalties for violations of academic honesty.

• Heard an update from Dean Glaser on the pending Retention Task Force Report.

We anticipate returning to issues of advising, and of Advanced Placement, in the coming year.

James Ennis, sociology (chair)
Drusilla Brown, economics
Alva Couch, computer science
Mark Cronin-Golomb, biomedical engineering
Leon Gunther, physics
Ikumi Kaminishi, art and art history
Jack Ridge, geology
Richard Weiss, mathematics
Robyn Gittleman, Experimental College
James M. Glaser, dean of undergraduate education
Jean Herbert, associate dean of undergraduate education
Kate Nash, director of advising
Susan Ostrander, sociology (Executive Committee liaison)
Emerson Luke, A09
Laura Pacifici, A11
David Proctor, graduate student
Brandon Rattiner, A10
Amanda Richardson, A08 (fall)
Matthew Shapanka, A09 (spring)