A&S&E Committee on Educational Policy

The committee met nine times during the year. Our main topics were policies on awarding prematriculation credit; the finality of awarded grades; and premajor advising. The A&S&E passed resolutions on the first two items, which are included below. The committee also acted in advisory capacity to the Arts and Sciences ad hoc committee on Evaluation of Education Outcomes (Professor Harry Bernheim, chair), and to Dean Hollister of Tisch College (on initiating an Honors Civicus for undergraduates distinguished in active citizenship). We concluded the year by opening a discussion of course evaluation procedures, which will continue into the fall. Professor Jack Ridge will chair the committee in academic year 2009–2010.

Topics we had insufficient time to consider included grading policy for unfinished courses (I, W, NG); possible standardization of minors; and access to and credit for internships.

The EPC and the faculty passed the following two resolutions this year.

Prematriculation Credits

After an extensive study of the growth in the use of prematriculation credits by incoming students, the committee crafted legislation with four components.

1. To bring greater clarity to the Bulletin language on our prematriculation credit policies.
2. To restrict the use of Advanced Placement (AP) and international diploma credits in fulfilling distribution requirements so that students may use only one such credit in meeting the two-course requirement in each Arts and Sciences distribution area.
3. To cap the number of prematriculation credits students may bring into Tufts at five for Arts and Sciences students and eight for Engineering students.
4. To charge each department with reviewing the AP test in its area and report back to the committee any changes to the department’s credit policies by the end of fall 2009 term.

Finality of Grades

The committee also passed a resolution to place an explicit statement on the finality of grades in the Bulletin and the Faculty Handbook. This statement reaffirms the policy that submitted grades are final and not subject to change except to correct clerical errors or deviations from previously set forth class policies and standards.

The faculty passed both resolutions at the April 22, 2009, A&S&E faculty meeting.

James G. Ennis, for the committee:

Brown, Drusilla  Guzman, Manuel  Proctor, David
Cronin-Golomb, Mark  Herbert, Jean  Rattiner, Brando
Doane, Laura  Hirsch, Steven  Ridge, John
Gittleman, Robyn  Kaminishi, Ikumi  Russo, Shawn
Glaser, James  Miczek, Klaus  Ryder, Daniel
Gunther, Leon  Pickard, Duncan  Weiss, Richard