A&S&E Committee on Educational Policy
Annual Report 2009–2010

The Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) met once a month through fall and spring semesters. EPC passed four resolutions this year. One additional resolution has been put off until next year. Of the four passed, one passed on the floor of the faculty (Veteran’s Day) and one was tabled, to be reintroduced with revisions next year (course evaluations). Two others were passed in committee, but not sent to the full faculty (School of the Museum of Fine arts (SMFA) and creative honors theses).

Course Evaluations

Our present paper-and-pencil evaluation process is outmoded and dependent upon deteriorating equipment and processing software. As we have an opportunity to move to an online evaluation process, EPC considered a series of policy changes associated with the move to an online system. EPC spent most of the year researching the issues, gathering opinions and feedback from the entire community, and working on a resolution detailing changes to our course evaluation policies. The committee crafted seven proposals, to be voted upon individually by the full faculty. Unfortunately, the time available for discussion was limited and the issues involved were too complex for the faculty to make decisions. The resolution was tabled until the fall and EPC will need to decide then how to move the resolution forward.

Veterans Day

Upon request by the student senate, EPC took up the issue of holding classes on Veterans Day, which was to be a staff but not a class holiday next year (as it was this year). The vote in EPC and the full faculty switched the class holiday from Columbus Day to Veterans Day (both will remain a staff holiday). The resolution was amended on the floor so that the scheduling committee was instructed to make this a permanent decision in those years where the fall semester is not long enough for both days to be holidays.

School of Museum of Fine Arts Prematriculation Credits

The administration of the SMFA asked for prematriculation credits to be allowed toward the bachelor of fine arts degree. EPC voted to allow this change. The number of credits allowed (two out of fourteen) is proportionate to the number of credits allowed for students in Arts and Sciences (five out of thirty-four). The Advanced Placement and I.B. credit policies by subject will be set by the academic departments. The SMFA administration will negotiate with the Department of Art and Art History about the art history Advanced Placement credit, but that change is beyond the purview of EPC.

Creative Honors Theses

The honors thesis guidelines allow for “creative theses,” but a question came before EPC as to whether these theses required a written component. EPC decided not to make a decision on this question, but to make explicit in the Bulletin that departments and programs would set their own parameters for theses (including creative theses).

Extraordinary Grades

EPC discussed the use of extraordinary grades such as NG, Inc., and W. The work of the committee is not complete on the policy issues associated with these grades and EPC will take this up again in the fall term.

Jack Ridge, geology (chair)
Drusilla Brown, economics
Alva Couch, computer science
Mark Cronin-Golomb, biomedical engineering
Leon Gunther, physics and astronomy
Sonia Hofkosh, English
Ayesha Jalal, history (Fall)
Ikumi Kaminishi, art history
Eric Todd Quinto, mathematics (spring)
Pearl Robinson, political science
Richard Weiss, mathematics (fall)
Mary Jane Shultz, chemistry (Executive Committee representative)
Laura Doane, director, advising and scholarships
Lew Edgers, associate dean of engineering
Robyn Gittleman, director, Experimental College
James M. Glaser, dean of undergraduate education
Jean Herbert, associate dean of undergraduate education
Lynne Pepall, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Kristin Dukes, Graduate Student Council
Nunu Luo, TCU Senate
Alice Pang, TCU Senate
Sam Wallis, TCU Senate (fall)