A&S&E Committee on Educational Policy

Three sets of resolutions were passed by EPC this year.

- A resolution on extraordinary grades.
- The formulation of a Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) subcommittee to oversee the transition to a new online student course evaluation system (Student Course Evaluation Committee, or SCEC).
- Resolutions to acknowledge ROTC participation on student transcripts.

Of the three passed, one resolution was passed on the floor of the faculty (ROTC) while two others were passed in committee, but not sent to the full faculty for a vote (SCEC and extraordinary grades).

Extraordinary Grades

EPC passed a resolution aimed at cleaning up ambiguities with grades such as Inc, NG, and W. The aim of this resolution is to curb grades of Inc and NG on final transcripts at graduation. Faculty will now have to post grades of Inc with default grades that will be recorded during the following semester should a student not complete work that is overdue. A new grade, NR (no record), will be used when a student either never attended classes or has no record from very early in the course. In the past NG was often used in this situation. Now NG will be reserved for when students have a record of completing some work in the course and attending class but have stopped participating and have not dropped the course. NG will remain on a student’s transcript. The new grading system is being used for the first time in the spring 2011 semester.

Student Course Evaluations

With the movement to a new learning management system (Sakai and Trunk) the administration has decided to move student course evaluations online. EPC expressed its support for this move. Based on information collected last year, EPC developed and passed a proposal to form a subcommittee (SCEC) that will be responsible for overseeing the following.

- The transition to an online system as soon as possible with the current form.
- The monitoring of participation rates and results of an online system.
- The formulation of a new student course evaluation instrument online.

EPC passed this proposal and presented it to the faculty for information and discussion. The proposal, detailing the subcommittee’s responsibilities and membership, is available here. EPC is currently working on assembling the committee.

ROTC Resolution

EPC passed two resolutions that would recognize ROTC participation on students’ transcripts and brought them to the A&S&E faculty for discussion and a vote at separate meetings. The faculty passed a resolution that allows a notation of ROTC participation (when completed) at the bottom of the transcript upon graduation and overwhelmingly rejected a second resolution that would make a note of ROTC course participation in individual semesters on the transcript.

EPC also discussed several other issues but did not feel that resolutions needed to be formulated at this time and no votes were taken on these matters. Among these discussions were the following.

- Loopholes and consistency in rules that prohibit students from taking courses that would give duplicate credit for the same course material.
- A brief discussion of the standards and consistency of rules regarding internships as requirements and for credit.
- How long disciplinary notations should remain on a transcript.
- The university’s policy on online courses.
- A brief discussion of students using computers during class.

Jack Ridge, geology (chair)
Alva Couch, computer science
Mark Cronin-Golomb, biomedical engineering
Leon Gunther, physics and astronomy
Sonia Hofkosh, English (on leave)
Ayesha Jalal, history
Eric Todd Quinto, mathematics
Pearl Robinson, political science
Joel Rosenberg, German, Russian, and Asian languages and literatures
Kristin Dukes, Graduate Student Council
Tianyin Luo, TCU Senate
Alice Pang, TCU Senate
Sam Wallis, TCU Senate (fall)
Mary Jane Shultz, chemistry (Executive Committee representative, ex officio)
Laura Doane, director, advising and scholarships (ex officio)
Robyn Gittleman, director, Experimental College (ex officio)
Carmen Lowe, interim dean of undergraduate studies (ex officio)
James M. Glaser, dean of academic affairs (ex officio)
Jean Herbert, associate dean of undergraduate education (ex officio)