



University Council

Educational Affairs Committee 2020-2021

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Jason Peake-present

Arts and Sciences – Samantha Joye-present

Jean Martin-Williams-present

Business – David Mustard-present

Annette Poulsen (chair)-present

Education – Laura Bierema-present

Engineering – Sudhagar Mani

Environment and Design – Rosanna Rivero-present

(also representing Public Health and Social Work)

Family and Consumer Sciences – Patti Hunt-Hurst-present

Forestry and Natural Resources – Puneet Dwivedi

(also representing Ecology)

Journalism and Mass Communication – Shira Chess-present

Pharmacy – Ewan Cobran-present

(also representing Veterinary Medicine and Law)

Public and International Affairs – Daniel Hill

Provost- Jack Hu-present

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ciera Thomas-present

Graduate/Professional Student Representative – Gerena Walker

Guests: Courtney Cullen

Phillip Griffeth

Meg Mittelstadt

Marisa Pagnattaro

Rahul Shrivastav

William Vencill

David Williams

The Educational Affairs Committee met on October 5, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. online via Zoom.

The minutes of the February 24, 2020, meeting were approved as distributed.

Chair Annette Poulsen reported that since the last EAC meeting, the Petitions Subcommittee has reviewed 124 student appeals. Of those appeals, 88 were approved and 36 were denied.

The Office of Academic Honesty provided the 2019-2020 Academic Affairs Honesty Annual Report, which will be forwarded to the Executive Committee as an information item at its November meeting.

Vice President for Instruction Shrivastav asked the committee to discuss whether, due to on-going concerns about COVID-19, spring break 2021 should remain as scheduled on the academic calendar. The committee discussed at length the pros and cons of keeping spring break, distributing the spring break days throughout the semester, or canceling it. Following discussion, a motion was made by David Mustard for the EAC to support revising the current plan for spring break to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The motion was seconded by Patti Hunt-Hurst. A vote was called, and the motion was approved with 11 in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstention.

The committee discussed a resolution drafted by a subcommittee of the EAC regarding its faculty role in educational affairs and policies, specifically that the EAC should be included in decision-making processes about policies and procedures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other circumstances at the University that pertain to EAC's charge. During discussion, several edits were made to the resolution that were accepted by the subcommittee. The edits included the sections of the resolution on governance, educational policy, and the academic calendar. Following discussion, a motion was made by Jean Martin-Williams to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Daniel Hill. A vote was called, and the motion was approved with 5 in favor, 3 against, and 3 abstentions. The resolution will be forwarded to the Executive Committee as an agenda item at its November meeting.

The remaining portion of the meeting concerned a brief discussion on a report on plagiarism detection software provided by Meg Mittelstadt from the Center for Teaching and Learning as well as online plagiarism programs, such as "Turn It In." Chair Poulsen also mentioned two other discussion items briefly: the required number of enrollment hours for a student to return from dismissal and the 45/60 graduation requirement in which 45 of the last 60 hours must be completed at UGA. Both are policies that will be discussed at future EAC meetings for possible revisions this academic year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Annette Poulsen, Chair
Educational Affairs Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav