EAC Minutes- December 1, 2020

EAC Members in attendance: Laura Bierema, Shira Chess, Sudhagar Mani, Jean Martin-Williams, David Mustard, Annette Poulsen, Rosanna Rivero, Ciera Thomas, Gerena Walker

Guests in attendance: Fiona Liken, Rahul Shrivastav

Vice President for Instruction Rahul Shrivastav met with members of the Educational Affairs Committee to obtain feedback from EAC members on four topics: timing of daily class periods; instructional breaks in spring 2021; attendance policies; S/U grades

- Timing of daily class periods: Specifically, the 20 minutes added to the time between classes for most class periods in the day was discussed. Committee members agreed that the 20 minutes seemed to work well and recommended that the 20-21 class schedule be continued into fall 2021. It was also recommended that EAC reconsider this issue at the February 2021 EAC meeting, reviewing SGA's previous proposal, the current calendar, and the previous calendar for a recommendation going forward past fall 2021 when COVID may be less of a concern.
- Instructional breaks in Spring 2021: The committee recommended that VP Shrivastav circulate a statement indicating that instructional break days should have no assignments or tests scheduled on those day and that it is "strongly recommended" that no assignments or tests be scheduled for the following day.
- Attendance policies: The committee found that the current attendance policies as stated in the Bulletin give flexibility to faculty in determining attendance policies. In addition, in the VP for Instruction's October newsletter, VP Shrivastav reiterates this guidance, but also recognizes the importance of public health needs. The committee did not recommend any further input from the EAC.
- S/U grades: While there was significant discussion on this point, for the most part, the recognition that USG has not allowed opt-in S/U grading meant that there was probably not a substantive role for the EAC in this discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.