

Educational Affairs Committee of the University Council of the University of Georgia

Resolution Regarding Faculty Role in Educational Affairs and Policies

Given that the duty of the UGA University Council Educational Affairs Committee is to “... *consider and recommend to the Council educational policies dealing with registration procedures, course scheduling, class times and periods, academic advising, and ... hears academic student appeals and reports from the Division of Academic Enhancement Student Issues Committee,*” the Educational Affairs Committee 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 our charge.

To that end, the EAC requests the following measures:

1. **Governance:** We request that faculty governance play a substantive role in decision making alongside university administration; participating in the administration’s discussions about the duties of the Educational Affairs Committee as defined in the bylaws.
2. **Educational Policy:** The EAC encourages UGA to uphold existing educational policies that support unit level flexibility in order to deliver excellent pedagogy and meet the ever-changing needs of students. We request that faculty autonomy be upheld, by working within the University community, to ensure that quality education is upheld by (1) supporting their opportunities to adjust their normal tactics in the classroom without changing the mode of delivery of instruction of the class and (2) reinforcing their prevailing ability to revise those plans, as necessary over the course of the semester. In light of both our current situation and continuing innovation in online learning, we would like to encourage, not discourage, faculty to work alongside of administration to find ways to innovate beyond the physical classroom so as to most effectively serve students.
3. **Academic Calendar:** During the COVID-19 duration, the EAC requests continued input on the academic calendar with special consideration of breaks that lead to students leaving and returning from campus.
4. **Academic Freedom:** That the UGA administration continues to support academic freedom in instruction including innovation, flexibility, instructional content, pedagogical delivery, and classroom management. As defined in the University Statutes, Article X, Section 5, academic freedom is defined as: “University Faculty members are entitled to full freedom of expression in research, teaching, and publishing, subject only to those restrictions that are imposed by professional ethics and respect for the rights of others. University Faculty members have the right to criticize and seek alteration of both academic and non-academic University policies, whether or not those policies affect them directly. University Faculty are free from institutional censorship, discipline, or reprisal affecting their professional careers for exercising freedom of expression.”