

Report of the UGA University Council Standing Committee on Educational Affairs  
April 21, 2021

The role of the Educational Affairs Committee is to consider and recommend to the Council educational policies such as registration procedures, academic advising, and the like, to hear academic appeals, and to hear reports from the Division of Academic Enhancement.

The Educational Affairs Committee met several times in Spring 2021.

At our meetings February 8 and March 22, we had several action items.

- In Spring 2020, the EAC had sent forward to the University Curriculum Committee two items related to attendance policies. The UCC sent these items back to EAC for further clarification, which we followed up on at the March 22 meeting.
  - Revision of Policy 4.06-5 is an adjustment of the Air Force ROTC Commitment and Summer Break excused absence provisions. The revision sent forward from our March meeting to UCC states that absences due to military duty or veteran status must be excused and that students should be given reasonable accommodation by faculty to make up missed work. UCC will evaluate this proposal before sending it on to University Council for consideration.
  - New policy 4.06-6 is aimed at determining a procedure by which excused absences would be available to students involved in official UGA activities that conflict with assigned class time. Possible activities would include UGA official athletics, performance groups, etc. This proposed policy is still under revision. The EAC welcomes any input on such a policy.
- The EAC approved a proposal to change the number of credit hours for which a student can register without receiving an override from 17 to 18, significantly decreasing the number of expected manual overrides required. The proposal has been forwarded to UCC before it is sent on to University Council for consideration.
- The EAC approved a proposal from the Division of Academic Enhancement that clarifies and revises the academic probation and dismissal policies. The “Connect and Complete: Persistence Framework” was forwarded to the UCC for their review.

The EAC’s work covered several other activities, including:

- Recommending that the 20-minute break between classes continue into the future indefinitely.
- Reviewing the proposed academic calendar for 2022-2023.
- Reviewing the report of the Office of Academic Honesty regarding their “Faculty Listening Tour” that was designed to better understand concerns with the current Academic Honesty policies. The EAC plans on reviewing these policies as part of its work next year.
- Recommending that the Office of Instruction work with the SGA in implementing a course grade distribution website, on which grade distributions would be reported by course number and instructor.
- Holding a special meeting with VP Rahul Shrivastav regarding instruction expectations for the remainder of Spring 2021 and beyond. EAC members valued the opportunity to share concerns from students and faculty regarding instruction, including transcription services for lectures,

DRC accommodations, academic honesty concerns, maintaining instruction flexibility in the fall, respect for instructional break days, and student workload under hybrid and online models.

Annette Poulsen was re-elected chair of the EAC for the next academic year at the March 22 meeting.

The Petitions Subcommittee of EAC considered 67 student appeals between October 2020 and March 2021; 54 of the appeals were approved by the Subcommittee, 12 were denied and 1 was deferred. All meetings were held via Zoom, including Zoom meetings with students if they requested to address the subcommittee directly.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Poulsen, Chair