

Dear colleague,

I am writing to report on the work of the Educational Policy and Planning Committee during its first year.

The committee was occupied primarily with two main tasks: an investigation into the place of Arts and Sciences within the global strategy of the university initially requested by EVP Nick Dirks, and the scheduled review of Frontiers of Science, conducted on behalf of the College Committee on Instruction at the request of Dean Jim Valentini. The EPPC has also discussed several other issues, some of which it will be pursuing next year. I shall summarize our work in these areas, in advance of the faculty meeting scheduled for May 7.

The EPPC began work on the issue of global education by surveying departmental views about study abroad and by meeting with Michael Pippenger, Dean of Undergraduate Global Programs, with Safwan Masri, Vice President for Global Centers, and with the directors of various global centers, in order to understand both our current situation and new opportunities that were emerging. The committee was also involved in the work of rewriting the Mellon Global Humanities Initiative, and in November held a meeting to gather input from the faculty about how to enhance international education opportunities for undergraduates. In the wake of that meeting, a subcommittee was appointed under the chairmanship of Jack Snyder, Professor of Political Science (membership is listed below). That subcommittee helped to draft the Request for Proposals that went out to departments when the Mellon grant was funded and has advised the EC on those proposals. At Dean Valentini's request, the subcommittee became the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Office of Global Programs, a dual role it will continue next year.

From its work this year, including conversations with faculty and a survey of undergraduate views on study and experiences abroad, the EPPC's subcommittee on global education wishes to highlight two particular areas of concern, as we move forward. First, students consistently cite financial considerations above all others when considering study abroad, and the subcommittee wishes to stress that any expansion in summer instruction abroad should be accompanied by financial aid so that such opportunities are equally available to all students. Second, the subcommittee supports the goal, strongly expressed by faculty and students, that summer research opportunities (including fellowships for thesis research and student participation in faculty research abroad) be more widely available. Such support should be equally available to students whose area of interest coincides with the remit of a Global Center and those whose work does not. Jack Snyder will report to the faculty on the work of the committee at the faculty meeting on May 7.

Much of the EPPC's time this year was taken up by the scheduled review of the first year course, Frontiers of Science. An internal review committee jointly chaired by Susan Pedersen and Stuart Firestein conducted the review (membership listed below). The Executive Committee of Frontiers of Science prepared a self-study and generously opened the course both to the Internal Review Committee and to a distinguished group of external reviewers, who visited the course in February. A report on Frontiers of Science, written by the Internal Review Committee and incorporating some of the findings of the external reviewers as well, was accepted by the EPPC on April 18 and delivered to Dean Valentini for consideration by the college curricular committees (the Committee on Science Instruction, the Committee on the Core, and the

Committee on Instruction). At the request of the Frontiers of Science Executive Committee, that consideration will take place only after the current FoS students take their final exam on May 12.

Looking forward, the EPPC expects to be engaged in 2013-14 with four main issues. First, the work of the subcommittee on global education will continue, as we seek to build a wider set of opportunities for our undergraduates abroad while also enhancing our rich global curriculum on Morningside. Second, at the request of the College and with the support of other schools, we hope to begin to rationalize and simplify our system of allocating 'points' to courses – a system that appears to have no particular logic, varies considerably from department to department, and significantly shapes students' choices, requirements and programs. Third, the EPPC will maintain a 'watching brief' on various online initiatives and to that end has asked the Arts and Sciences members of the Provost's Faculty Advisory Committee on Online Learning, together with other EPPC members, to serve as an EPPC subcommittee on this issue. Finally, the committee will continue to work with various committees and departments to support department-level and school-level curricular initiatives and to spread pedagogical 'best practices' across the Arts and Sciences.

The EPPC hopes to work with the curricular committees and the schools to facilitate discussion and planning on these questions, including through discussions at the meetings of the full faculty. The monthly faculty meetings for the fall semester 2013 will be held from 12:00-2:00 in 555 Lerner on September 17, October 17, November 13, and December 9; we look forward to seeing you there. I have agreed to chair the EPPC again for another year and shall write in advance of the first faculty meeting to report on our work.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Pedersen

Office of Global Programs Faculty Advisory Committee/EPPC Global Subcommittee:

Julie Crawford, Bachir Diagne, Stathis Gourgouris, Patricia Grieve, John Huber, Donald Melnick, Timothy Mitchell, Gareth Williams, Madeleine Zelin; Jack Snyder (jls6), chair; Michael Pippenger (mp2496), ex officio.

Frontiers of Science Internal Review Committee (work completed):

Robert Friedman, Matthew Jones, Ann McDermott, Brendan O'Flaherty, Cathy Popkin, Jacqueline van Gorkom; Susan Pedersen (sp2216) and Stuart Firestein (sfirestein), co-chairs

EPPC Online Education Subcommittee, incorporating Arts & Sciences members of the Provost's Faculty Advisory Committee on Online Learning:

Kristine Billmyer, Adam Cannon, Matthew Connelly, Don Davis, Pierre Force, Patricia Grieve, Cathy Popkin; David Madigan, chair.