

March 24, 2015

Dear colleague,

I am writing to share with you two proposals put forward by the Educational Policy and Planning Committee, which will come to the faculty for discussion at the faculty meeting this Monday, 3/30. The meeting starts at 12 pm. The EPPC part of the meeting will begin at 1pm.

The Working group on Course Numbering has met with various bodies in an effort to streamline our course numbers in such a way as to allow them to provide consistent information to students and faculty. We attach the proposal and welcome your comments.

The Subcommittee on Instructional Technology and Course Evaluations, chaired by Prof. Adam Kosto, has also been working to craft a proposal for course evaluations. The subcommittee has met with many faculty and student bodies, and has been able to profit from their advice and feedback as well as from the experience of peer institutions, many of which have had open course evaluations for some time. We ask you to read the attached proposal. Please note that it is deliberately very modest, with a small number of common questions, so that departments can adapt and add to this template to meet their own needs. The committee also proposes opt-out periods designed to safeguard the position of new faculty and junior faculty in particular, as well as safeguards against any abuse of the system. We note, however, that our peer institutions have found students highly responsible about evaluations and offer this proposal in the belief that it is an appropriate step forward and a great improvement on our current situation. We welcome your comments and advice.

Finally, the Executive Committee has asked the EPPC to examine Global Education, including study abroad and graduate teaching and research abroad, in the Arts and Sciences. I attach that charge. A Task Force on Global Education in the Arts and Sciences has been established, chaired by Prof. Roz Morris, who will briefly explain its work.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Pedersen
Chair, EPPC