

Dear colleague,

I write as chair of the new Educational Policy and Planning Committee (EPPC), which was formed last summer by the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) and by Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences (EVPAS) Nick Dirks to give effect to a recommendation arising out of the President's Task Force on Undergraduate Education. The committee is to coordinate the work of the curriculum committees across the Arts and Sciences schools and to advise the PPC and the EVPAS on matters of educational policy and planning. It is composed of the EVPAS; the Deans of Columbia College, General Studies, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; the chairs of the committees on the core, global core, and science instruction, and a representative from the School of Engineering; six members of the faculty (three representing the PPC); and three student representatives. (For more details please go [here](#)).

I write to inform you about the work we are undertaking and about how we hope to involve you in those efforts.

The committee has been charged with two principal tasks this year. First, at the request of Executive Vice President Nick Dirks, the committee will be examining a range of issues around the global strategy of the University with reference to teaching abroad and study abroad programs. Second, at the request of Dean of Columbia College Jim Valentini, it will be organizing the review of the first-year science course, Frontiers of Science, in order to understand how well it works as a foundational science course for undergraduates and to advise on the appropriateness of making the course a permanent part of the core. Other issues may arise as we proceed, but I expect these two to absorb most of the committee's time this year.

The EPPC will attempt to keep faculty informed, and to solicit faculty advice, as it proceeds. We have begun our work on issues of international education by soliciting departmental views. We shall send a short memo to the faculty as a whole conveying what we have learned in early November; this will be discussed at an Arts and Sciences faculty meeting on November 29 devoted to this question. We hope you will join us. In addition, I, and all the faculty representatives on the EPPC, will be happy to hear from you about either of the issues we are discussing this year. My email is sp2216@columbia.edu.

The faculty representatives on EPPC are as follows:

Sciences: Robert Friedman, Mathematics (rf@math.columbia.edu) and Jacqueline van Gorkom, Astronomy (jvangork@astro.columbia.edu)

Social Sciences: Brendan O'Flaherty, Economics (bo2@columbia.edu) and Jack Snyder, Political Science (jls6@columbia.edu)

Humanities: Souleymane Bachir Diagne, French and Romance Philology (sd2456@columbia.edu) and Cathy Popkin, Slavic Languages (cp18@columbia.edu).

Committees and Schools: Matthew Jones, Core Curriculum (mjones@columbia.edu); Patricia Grieve, Global Core (peg1@columbia.edu); Stuart Firestein, Committee on Science Instruction (sfirestein@columbia.edu); Adam Cannon, Fu Foundation School of Engineering (cannon@cs.columbia.edu).

With your help, the Committee hopes to become a mechanism for deliberative and constructive collaboration and planning over curricular matters across the Arts and Sciences.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Pedersen
Professor of History
Chair, EPPC