

Dear colleague,

I write as chair of the Educational Policy and Planning Committee (EPPC), which is now in its second year. As you know, the committee was formed to coordinate the work of the curriculum committees across the Arts and Sciences schools and to advise the PPC and the EVP on matters of educational policy and planning. It is composed of the EVP; the Deans of Columbia College, General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Continuing Education; 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 (Columbia College, General Studies, GSAS).

I should first mention the status of the projects we were involved in last year. The review of Frontiers of Science, conducted at the request of Dean Valentini, was completed by the end of the year, and Dean Valentini has informed the faculty of the formation and composition of a new committee, which will carry through on the work of enhancing the science component of the Core Curriculum. The Committee's involvement with global education (our second major topic last year) continues. Prof. Holger Klein of Art History has succeeded Prof. Jack Snyder as the chair of the EPPC subcommittee on global education, which also serves as the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Office of Global Programs. That group plans to facilitate various teaching and research initiatives across the Arts and Sciences, and especially to assist faculty and departments interested in building new courses and programs abroad. In addition, through the Arts and Sciences members of the Provostial Faculty Advisory Committee on Online Learning, the EPPC will maintain a watching brief over issues involving online education as they affect the Arts and Sciences. The EPPC will also consider how best to follow through on curricular matters raised through the ARC process.

This year, the EPPC will also begin to examine course weightings (3-points versus 4-points) across the Arts and Sciences and how those weightings affect faculty, programs, and students. The last faculty-wide review of our curricular structures occurred two decades ago, and it is clear that course weightings now are anything but uniform. (Some programs, for example, weight seminars at 3 points and some at 4; some weight lecture courses at 3 and some at 4.) We would like to begin the process of standardizing our practices, being careful to do so in a way that does not place additional burdens on our students and is in keeping with the intellectual values of the faculty. To that end, the EPPC has created a small internal working group to collect data, think through the issues involved, and outline possible ways to proceed. The EPPC will share its findings with departments, curricular committees, students and other Columbia schools, and solicit feedback. There will also be an Arts and Sciences faculty meeting devoted to this question on November 13 in Lerner 555, 12:00-2:00. We hope you will join us.

We rely on your help in our effort to build an effective and collaborative structure for curricular planning in the Arts and Sciences. We will keep in touch with you about these and other matters as the year progresses. A full list of the members of the EPPC follows; for membership of the subcommittees and working groups, see <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/vpas/about/PPCEPPC.html>. I, and all EPPC members, would be happy to hear from you about any of these issues.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Pedersen

Professor of History
Chair, EPPC

Educational Policy and Planning Committee, 2013-14

Susan Pedersen, Professor of History, Chair

Members, in alphabetical order:

Carlos Alonso, Vice President for Graduate Education, Dean GSAS, Professor of
Latin American and Iberian Cultures

Peter Awn, Dean General Studies, Professor of Religion

Kristine Billmyer, Dean School of Continuing Education

Adam Cannon, Lecturer in Discipline, Computer Sciences, SEAS

Richard Clarida, Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs

Marina Cords, COSI Chair, Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental
Biology

Christopher Crew, Student, GSAS

Bachir Diagne, Professor of French and Romance Philology

Robert Friedman, Professor of Mathematics

Patricia Grieve, Chair Committee on Global Core, Professor of Latin American and
Iberian Cultures

Matthew Jones, Chair Committee on the Core, Professor of History

Serena Mackool, Student, General Studies

David Madigan, Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences, Dean of the Faculty,
Professor of Statistics

Margaret Mattes, Student, Columbia College

Cathy Popkin, Professor of Slavic Languages

Jack Snyder, Chair of PPC, Professor of Political Science

James Valentini, Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Dean Columbia
College, Professor of Chemistry

Jacqueline Van Gorkom, Professor of Astronomy