

Education Committee

Thursday, 8/20

9:30am-11am

Attendees: Chris Louis, Tim Callaghan, Jessica Leibler, Nikki Longe, Megan Healey, Gina Peloso, Candice Belanoff, Bill MacLeod, Andrew Stokes, Caitlin Brand

1. Old Business:

- a. Update on course evaluation data.
 - i. Caitlin to follow up with the marketing office for course evaluation website analytics and will bring the information back to the next meeting.
- b. Holding on new course submissions/phase I proposals.
 - i. **ACTION:** EC representatives to notify departments of hold on new course submissions/phase I proposals.
- c. CEPH reporting update.
 - i. SPH will send response to CEPH feedback by 10/21.
 - ii. SPH to submit the substantive change form for the MPH degree reduction to 42 credits in the next couple of weeks.
- d. Education Taskforce recommendations comms update.
 - i. Dean has referred TF recommendations to the Governing Council for review, which will then go to Faculty Senate.
 - ii. Chris to work with Task Force Co-Chairs to formulate a strategy for implementing and communicating the Education Task Force recommendations.
- e. AI
 - i. [Pan gram AI detector](#) suggested as a potentially useful tool for detecting AI use in course work across SPH.
 1. Committee discussed the potential of piloting multiple tools like this to determine what is most useful and effective since this area is rapidly evolving.
 - ii. SPH's [current AI use policy](#) allows individual faculty choice rather than imposing a strict ban, though there is inconsistency across different instructors.
 1. There is a need for coordinated strategies around AI use policies while still allowing for flexibility relative to individual faculty approaches.
 2. Suggestion raised for degree program specific AI use policies to better address different course needs rather than a single school-wide policy.
 3. Concerns raised regarding variability of policy implementation negatively impacting students.
 - a. Example cited regarding a student facing potential expulsion due to inconsistent enforcement of AI policies across courses.
 - iii. Committee discussed need to convince students of the value of developing critical thinking skills rather than solely relying on AI tools, and the importance of a more forward-looking approach to AI use in the classroom rather than primarily focusing on detection.
 - iv. Articles shared in chat:
 1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/13/technology/personaltech/pangram-ai-detector-test.html?searchResultPosition=1>
 2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/10/us/ai-cheating-online-degrees.html?searchResultPosition=2>
 3. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty/learning-assessment/2026/07/08/brown-professor-suspects-most-his-class-used-ai-cheat>

2. New Business:

- a. Education Committee Charter/Purpose.
 - i. Please review the attachment (highlighted sections) and the following statement from our website: *The Education Committee oversees all of the School's educational programs. It reviews proposals for new educational programs and new courses, oversees the student and teaching evaluation process, and regularly reviews the*

curricula of each program. The Education Committee is chaired by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and is comprised of one faculty representative from each academic unit and at least one student representative. Membership also includes the directors of the MPH, DrPH, undergraduate programs, and research masters and PhD programs, and the Registrar. Faculty representatives, who are not directors, are appointed by department chairs and serve a two-year term, renewable once.

ii. Committee Feedback on EC Charter

1. Review and refine course proposals to ensure they meet both university requirements and public health relevance.
2. EC representatives serve as liaisons between departments and the Academic Affairs Office.
3. Elevate best practices and innovations across programs.
4. Conduct periodic degree program reviews.
5. Connect with groups such as Faculty Senate to bring relevant topics to EC meetings for discussion.
6. Explore options for improving communication and transparency about committee work and decisions.

ii. Committee to continue the discussion of EC charter over the semester.

b. Program Reviews.

- i. What information do we want to perform systematic program reviews (should happen annually)?
- ii. Committee Feedback
 1. Program reviews have not been conducted as frequently in recent years due to lack of bandwidth.
 2. Suggestion raised for EC to develop parameters for degree program reviews that departments could submit for EC to review.

c. Other/Discussion.

- i. The group explored ways to enhance the committee's impact such as:
 1. Hosting more frequent and engaging teaching-focused events or workshops.
 2. Create an educational champions program to recognize faculty.
- ii. Concerns raised regarding limited faculty engagement relative to education initiatives, noting that teaching is perceived as lower priority over research.
- iii. Student preferences toward online programs are evolving and there is a need for the school to adapt to the changing educational landscape.

3. Next Meeting: 9/3 from 10-11a

- a. Fall Meeting Schedule: 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17
- b. **For consideration:** School-wide Education Retreat (will need to schedule the room soon)
 - i. Should this be led by the Ed Committee and Academic Affairs Office jointly?
 - ii. What days/times work best? Friday, 11/13? 9-1pm?