The Constitutional Charge of the Educational Policy Committee

The charge and responsibilities of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) are spelled out in Section 4.4(i) of the Faculty Governance Guide. EPC is an advisory body to the President and the Senate on matters of educational policy and planning. The Faculty Governance Guide breaks down the charge of the EPC as follows:

1. **On its own initiative**, EPC is to take notice of significant developments bearing on educational policy and planning, and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate.
2. **By referral** from the President, faculty committees, the Faculty Senate, the EPC is to prepare recommendations on educational policy and planning.
3. **In consultation** with appropriate Faculty committees, EPC is to recommend long-term University plans and priorities.
4. EPC evaluates, and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate, regarding proposals for the creation, major alteration, or abolition of academic units (department, programs, schools, colleges, centers, institutes, and other significant academic entities).

Work Completed During the 2014-15 Academic Year

1. **School of Gender, Race, and Nations**
   
   EPC reviewed a proposal for the creation of a new School of Gender, Race, and Nation within the College of Arts and Sciences, submitted by the departments of Black Studies, Gender, Women and Sexuality, Indigenous Nations Studies, and Chicano-Latino Studies. EPC met with the principals, and worked to refine the proposal. EPC presented a motion to the Faculty Senate supporting this proposal, and Faculty Senate voted to approve the creation of a new School of Gender, Race, and Nations.

2. **Department of International and Global Studies**
   
   EPC reviewed a proposal from the International Studies Program to become a Department of International and Global Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences. EPC met with the principals, and worked to refine the proposal. The committee introduced motion to the Faculty Senate supporting the proposal, and
Faculty Senate voted to approve the creation of a new Department of International and Global Studies.

3. School of Public Health (OHSU-PSU)

Groundwork towards joint PSU-OHSU School of Public Health has been underway since 2010. A formal proposal to create this school came before the Faculty Senate fairly late in this process, but over the course of this academic year EPC members consulted with the principals several times—prior, during, and after the submission of the final full draft—to assist and ensure the final proposal meets the expectations of the Faculty regarding documentation and external review. A final proposal was received in late March, reviewed by the EPC in April, and the final external review letter was received in May. EPC has prepared a motion recommending the creation of a new joint School of Public Health that will be considered by the Faculty Senate at its June 2015 meeting.

4. Proposal to Create a Graduate College in place of the current Office of Graduate Studies

EPC reviewed this proposal and unanimously recommended against the change. EPC determined that the academic merits of such a change are lacking.

5. Post-Tenure Review Guidelines

On the request of Faculty Senate Steering Committee, EPC reviewed drafts and offered comments on the new Post-Tenure Review guidelines approved this year.

6. Guidelines for Proposals to Transfer the Academic Home of Units across Schools and Colleges at PSU

On the request of the Provost, EPC reviewed a draft of these guidelines and offered feedback. Some recommendations that EPC considered important were not adopted, and the committee has decided to recommend they be adopted a suggested steps.

7. Faculty Senate Policy on Online Education

At the start of this academic year EPC heard many concerns about the need for (and a perceived paucity of) Faculty shared governance in the direction of de facto policy directions in relation to the expansion of online course offerings. This was not a matter EPC had much time to work on. We reviewed the 2011 “Report to the PSU Faculty Senate” from the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning, and it is clear that many issues and questions raised by that report required Faculty Senate follow-through. To this end, EPC is recommending the creation of standing Faculty Senate committee working alongside, and augmenting the capacity of EPC.
8. Memorandum on Early Consultation with Faculty and EPC

At the start of this academic year EPC heard many faculty concerns about policies and program moving to fairly advanced stages without formal Faculty Senate consultation. In response, the committee has a memorandum to Faculty Senate and the Office of Academic Affairs, spelling out the desirability and an expectation of early EPC and Senate consultation. (This expectation has informally circulated across campus, and this spirit is clearly reflected in the “Guidelines for Proposals to Transfer the Academic Home...” referenced above, item 6).

Work Initiated and Continuing into the Next Academic Year

9. Pre-Baccalaureate Certificates

The Academic Requirements Committee (ARC) brought to the attention of EPC an interest in some quarters to begin offering pre-baccalaureate certificates not connected to a course of study leading to a B.A. or B.S. There was a very early discussion. The matter carries to next year's agenda.

10. STEM Institute

EPC reviewed a proposal for the creation of a new STEM Institute and has feedback for the principals. Owing to the committee’s work load, review of this proposal did not allow enough time to present a motion to the Faculty Senate before the last meeting of the year. A motion for the creation of a STEM Institute will be prepared and submitted the Faculty Senate Steering Committee before the end of this academic year for a vote at the first Senate meeting of fall 2015.

11. Economics Department Move from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) to the College of Urban and Public Affairs (CUPA)

Per the “Guidelines for Proposals to Move...” (6, above), EPC received and has reviewed a proposal from the Economics Department to move from CLAS to CUPA. The proposal needs some additional work and will not be ready for a vote this academic year, but it seems possible it will be ready for an early vote in the fall.

12. School of Community Health Move from CUPA into a New School of Public Health

Per the “Guidelines for Proposals to Move...” (6, above), EPC received notification from the School of Community Health that it is starting work on, and intends to prepare a proposal for a move into a new School of Public Health, pending the creation of that School.

Note: This is a unique situation, as there are two separate matters here—the elimination of a school, and the move of its programs. PSU has a separate process for each, and EPC will work with the School of Community Health to help make sure both are prepared simultaneously in the interest of time.