To: Dean William Fry

From: Bruce Levitt

Re: Final Report for The Educational Policy Committee 2010/2011

This academic year was an active one for the Educational Policy committee (EPC). The Committee began the year with a number of major issues on the agenda:

- Turnitin
- Fall break and assignments
- Assignment deadlines (10:00 pm, 2:00 am, etc)
- Assignments over breaks
- Median grades
- Credit Hours
- Prelim conflicts and how to resolve such conflicts
- Courses on ethics/diversity (Should there be a university-wide requirement?)

Committee discussions of these beginning-of-year issues led to the writing and passage by the Faculty Senate of four resolutions: Academic Integrity, the adoption of Turnitin as a tool for faculty, the removal of Median Grades from the web, and a best practices resolution concerning assignments over breaks.

The remaining issues were all discussed by the EPC. Some items, such as credit hours and course loads were referred to an AD Hoc committee on the Student Experience appointed by the Dean of Faculty. These items will no doubt be discussed further next year in the context of overall student mental health.

The EPC was also asked to look at the new on-line registrations system, the new structure for E-Cornell, and referred the issue of varying the final exam schedule to the proper office to amend. The EPC also reviewed a request from Physical Education for an alternative to the Swim test under certain circumstances. The EPC also turned down a request from the Government Department to encroach on the 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. time for classes to alleviate their classroom availability issues.

Two important questions remained unresolved—namely the issue of overlapping prelims and the final draft of a resolution on assignment due times.

The committee this year had many frank discussions in an atmosphere of complete collegiality and openness and was an excellent example of the best virtues of faculty governance.