EPC Minutes October 1, 2021

In attendance: Jim Barber, Candice Benjes-Small, Annie Blazer, Ben Boone, Magali Compan, Jim Deverick, Josh Erlich (chair), Matt Haug, Sallie Marchello, Christy Porter, Cory Springer, Kristin Wustholz, Amy Xia, and Tom Zhang. Visiting: Doug Young (Chair, Committee on Academic Status)

1. Minutes from September 24, 2021 were approved.

2. Proposals Biology - undergraduate - re: AP credit Approved.

Curriculum change

3. Policy for assigning incomplete grades

Doug Young, Chair of the Committee on Academic Status (CAS), joined the meeting for a discussion of the policy for assigning grades of I (Incomplete). CAS has been identifying students with excessive numbers of I grades, in addition to full course loads. They have been discussing how to avoid the situation, which creates untenable stress for students. Grades of I often convert to an automatic grade of F because the required work is not completed. The Registrar's Office is assembling additional data on use of I grades. CAS and EPC will continue discussion on the topic.

After consideration of the possibility of conversion of I grades to a grade other than F if the work is not completed (based on existing student coursework), it was decided that the complications outweigh the benefits. Faculty can already in principle elect to convert an I grade up to the point that the I is automatically converted to an F. However, it was suggested that final exams are intended to be required for a passing grade.

In addition to policy language requiring that students initiate the request for an I grade from the instructor, it was suggested that the language should also require students to discuss a plan for completing the missing work with the instructor in order to receive the I grade rather than an F.

4. Update on Pass/Fail Task Force

The P/F Task Force is drafting a revised P/F policy that will be voted on by EPC and then brought to FAS, aiming for November 2021. Discussion focussed on the possibility of retroactive grade substitutions from letter grades to P.