

October 1, 2021

Meeting: Educational Policy & Student-Faculty Relations Committee

Present members:

Aminda Heckman

Karyn E Faber

Kelly A Bridges

Noelle Molé Liston

Scott Illingworth

Report submitted by: Noelle Mole Liston, Committee Chair

The committee will take on two central projects: 1) creating guidelines and best practices for faculty in relation to new university attendance policy for an in-person and remote teaching context. The charge emerged from a September 30th C-FSC Steering committee meeting with President Hamilton, which was also attended by Dr. Carlo Ciotoli. Senior administration and faculty have been noticing upticks in unwell students attending classes, and confusion surrounding faculty responsibilities to offer remote alternatives to class (e.g. live Zoom attendance, Zoom recording, asynchronous work, etc.). Moreover, there is little coherence among best practices across schools in relation to student and faculty in-person class attendance. Our committee will develop guidelines for faculty, as well as generate an advocacy statement to support faculty autonomy on issues of class modality and attendance. We also plan to further discuss and make an advocacy statement on the new snow day policy, requiring faculty to offer Zoom class at the same time as regular in-person class.

Our second objective will be to examine the labor implications of our hybrid, remote and in-person, higher education system. Certain programmatic and curricular changes have been made during the pandemic, some of which required more resources, staffing, and faculty labor, but without change in salary or necessary material investment. We plan to investigate how remote learning, as a semi-permanent and permanent addition to units, has impacted continuing contract faculty labor and responsibilities, and how to best petition the university for a coherent plan to address new needs.