

Committee on Educational Policy

February 2, 2023

In attendance: Faculty: Robert Benedetto, Chair; David Hanneke; Mekhola Gomes; Chris Kingston; Geoffrey Sanborn. Students: Zane Khiry '25; Gent Malushaga '25. Recorder: Nancy Ratner, Director of Academic Projects.

Rob Benedetto, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. in Porter Lounge, Converse. Continuing committee members welcomed David Hanneke to the committee and then approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Target-of opportunity (TO) request

Rob thanked Chris for managing an online conversation responding to the Math and Statistics department's urgent request for two target-of-opportunity (TO) hires.

Proposed revision to the *Faculty Handbook*

Rob returned next to a proposed revision to the *Faculty Handbook* which would explicitly state that faculty are expected to teach every class, compensating for any missed classes in a meaningful way. The committee suggested several revisions to the draft, and Rob suggested the committee revisit the following paragraph at its next meeting before sending it to the Faculty Executive Committee:

Faculty are expected to hold all scheduled classes. If faculty members are unable to teach class in person due to illness or other pressing matters, they may teach remotely, arrange for a colleague to teach the class in their place, or communicate material asynchronously (e.g. recorded lectures). Faculty should limit such substitutions to no more than the equivalent of two weeks of classes during the semester. If faculty need to exceed this limit of two weeks, they should be in touch with the chair of their department to make other arrangements for the teaching of their classes.

FTE review

Rob turned next to the FTE review and suggested the committee discuss each request on its merits (approaching the requests in a randomized sequence) before turning to a comparative discussion.

Anthropology and Sociology

The Department of Anthropology and Sociology requested two FTEs in sociology. These would replace Professor Himmelstein, who will retire in 2025, and Professor Mun, who has already

departed. To replace Himmelstein, the department would like to hire an urban sociologist, and the department would replace Mun with a quantitative methodologist, preferably one who has expertise in work and organizations or criminology, both of which are quantitatively oriented subspecialties.

American Studies

The Department of American Studies has requested permission to search for a tenure-line position in Education Studies, with expertise in the social foundations of American education, the area most closely aligned with a liberal arts approach to the study of education. The department acknowledged that the goal is to identify someone whose expertise in educational policy will advance the goals of the Education Studies program. Since this may result in a candidate who will fit more comfortably with another department, the department said it would also involve other departments in the search.

Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies

The Department of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies has requested a new FTE in the field of race and American law, either as a full-time appointment in SWAGS or as a joint appointment with another department.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.