

**Committee on Educational Policy
February 24, 2021**

In attendance: Faculty: Sandra Burkett; Nicola Courtright; Edward Melillo, chair; Krupa Shandilya; Adam Sitze. Provost and Dean of the Faculty: Catherine Epstein, *ex officio*. Students: Nicholas Graber-Mitchell '22; Robert Parker '21; Jalen Woodard '23. Recorder: Nancy Ratner, Director of Academic Projects.

Edward Melillo, chair of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. The committee approved the minutes of February 17, 2021.

Calendar, 2021-22

The committee reviewed two alternative calendars for the 2021-22 academic year incorporating revisions requested by the Committee of Six. Both versions moved the fall break to October 11-12, 2021, to align better with Indigenous Peoples' Day and the University of Massachusetts' calendar. Catherine pointed out this date for fall break conformed to the traditional college calendar and public school vacation.

In both versions, the January term would include sixteen class days, a single evaluation/exam day on January 26, 2022, and Martin Luther King Day would remain a holiday. One of the calendar drafts would begin the semester on September 1 and the other on August 30. Catherine explained that the earlier start (August 30) would allow the semester to begin with a full week of instruction, eliminating the need to hold Monday and Tuesday classes on the Wednesday and Thursday after fall break. It would also allow classes to end on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, with three reading days and a five-day exam period ending on December 15, 2021. If the CEP preferred not to hold exams on Saturday and Sunday, December 11-12, 2021, the exam period could end on December 17, preserving that weekend as extra reading days.

The committee opted for the earlier start, persuaded that starting the semester with a full week of classes would be beneficial. After considering whether the longer reading period might be problematic, the committee agreed that the advantages of ending exams on December 17, 2021, retaining the weekend as part of a longer reading period rather than part of the exam period, outweighed the disadvantages. Edward said he would send these recommendations to the Committee of Six.

Course proposals

The committee approved additional course proposals and asked that the enrollment caps on two courses be raised to 18, particularly in light of the higher number of students who will be on campus next year.

FTEs

The committee discussed FTE rankings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.