

**Committee on Educational Policy**  
**March 20, 2019**

**In attendance: Faculty: Catherine Sanderson, chair; Lawrence Douglas; Tekla Harms; Tariq Jaffer; Edward Melillo. Students: Gabriel Echarte '22; Brooke Harrington '22; Julia Ralph '21. Recorder: Nancy Ratner, Director of Academic Projects.**

Catherine Sanderson, chair of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Mullins Room. The committee approved the minutes from the meeting of March 6, 2019.

**FTE Requests**

Catherine S. asked the committee to review a letter summarizing the committee's FTE rankings and the reasons behind those rankings. The committee revised and provisionally approved the letter.

**Course Proposals**

Catherine S. next asked the committee to continue with its review of new courses. The committee recommended that a number of the submitted course descriptions be revised to provide greater clarity and approved the remaining courses.

**Military Activation Policy**

Catherine S. then asked the committee to review a policy that would apply to the military activation of current students if the student must withdraw for a semester or be absent from class due to military obligations or required medical treatment for service-connected conditions. Members pointed to two problematic paragraphs in the section covering re-enrollment procedures. One addresses a situation in which a returning student could no longer continue with a declared major or certificate program because the major or certificate is no longer offered. The committee questioned the idea that the college would determine the major or certificate program most similar to the previously declared major or certificate program and award credits accordingly. Since departments would need to have considerable input into the granting of such credits and might be unwilling to accept such credits towards their major, the committee was not convinced that the college could promise that previously awarded credits would be applied to a new major and did not think the college should guarantee credit towards a new certificate program if the previously pursued program ceased to exist.

The committee also took issue with the paragraph that dealt with students who were not academically prepared to resume academics at the college after returning from military leave. The policy states that the college will determine whether reasonable efforts are available to help such students become prepared. Committee members asked whose reasonable efforts would determine this and suggested the college might have a moral responsibility to respond to such a student. The committee thought this should be clarified. The committee also asked to see the policy for other returning students and said it would return to this discussion next week.

**Flexible Grading Option**

Catherine S. reported that Nick Horton had asked for clarification about whether second semester seniors experiencing "exceptional circumstances" would also be allowed to declare the FGO late in the semester under Option one. He thought this would be equivalent to retroactively selecting pass-fail. Nancy said seniors could not have this option under Option one, given the registrar's tight time frame for calculating honors degrees.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.