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Member Guidelines of the Educational Policies Council

BASIC FACTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COUNCIL

What is the Educational Policies Council?

The Educational Policies Council (EPC) is a committee of the Faculty Senate charged with the long-range academic planning and overall curriculum and academic policy guidelines for Kent State University.

The EPC became effective on 1 July 1967. Before that, it was called the University Council on Curriculum. The EPC, similar to its previous incarnation, was an independent group. In 1970, under terms of the revised Faculty Senate charter and bylaws, the EPC was placed under Senate jurisdiction.

The responsibilities, authority and procedures for the EPC, as listed in the [Policy Register](#), is relatively unchanged since its passage in 1967, with minor changes. In the grand scheme of institutional academic matters, the EPC is the final recommending body to the Board of Trustees for the majority of curriculum proposals presented.



For more substantial items (e.g., new degree program), the EPC is gateway between the academic colleges and the university-wide and/or external approving bodies.



1. Ohio Department of Higher Education

2. Higher Learning Commission (Kent State's regional accreditor)

When and Where Does the EPC Meet?

Typically, the EPC meets at 3:20 p.m. on the third Monday of each month (no meetings in June and July). Please note that sometimes there are exceptions to the third-Monday rule so always check the [schedule](#) on the EPC website. Depending on the agenda, some meetings may go beyond 5:00 p.m.

Council meetings are open to the university community to attend.

How Do I Know What's on the Agenda?

Past and present [agendas and meeting minutes](#) are posted on the Educational Policies Council website. The council secretary will send the agenda in advance of the meeting via email to EPC members, faculty senate, college deans, campus deans, department chairs, school directors and associate and assistant college and campus deans.

Members can review curriculum proposals for programs, courses and policies in the [Curriculum Information Management \(CIM\) software](#). If you have not used the CIM software before, you are encouraged to sign up for a (short) [user training session](#).

EPC COMPOSITION AND VOTING

Membership, appointment and duration of both the EPC Exec and the full EPC are listed in the tables below. Faculty members of the council must be full-time faculty who have an interest in university curricular planning and development. A list of [EPC members](#) for the academic year is posted on the Educational Policies Council website.

Voting: All members of the council have voting privileges with the exception of the council secretary. The EPC chair will vote only when to break a tie vote. A quorum shall be a simple majority of the council members. *There is no voting by proxy.*

Absences: Members do not have alternates. If you are unable to fulfill your duties for an extended period of time (i.e., more than three consecutive meetings), please alert the [EPC secretary](#). If you have been absent from three consecutive council meetings without explanation, the EPC secretary will notify the Executive EPC, which may recommend that your appointing/electing body select another member to serve on the council.

Educational Policies Council			
COMPOSITION		MEANS OF APPOINTMENT	DURATION
Chair: Faculty Senate Exec Committee rep	1	Appointed by Faculty Senate chair-elect from the elected representatives on the Faculty Senate	Two years
Secretary: Office of Curriculum Services	1	Standing	Continuing
Provost Office senior administrator	1	Appointed by the provost	Two years
College deans	2	Appointed by Academic Leadership Group	Two years
Faculty Senate members	2	Appointed by Faculty Senate chair-elect	Two years
Two full-time faculty members from each of the 11 degree-granting college <i>One should have graduate faculty status, and one should be teaching undergraduate courses. If a college does not have the capacity to have two faculty on the council in a given year, the college may have one faculty on the council.</i>	22	Appointed or elected by respective college curriculum body and/or college graduate coordinating body	One year
Faculty member from the University Libraries	1	Appointed by University Libraries dean upon consultation with the university libraries advisory committee	One year
Undergraduate student	1	Appointed by Undergrad Student Government	One year
Graduate student	1	Appointed by Graduate Student Senate	One year
Total Membership:	32		
Executive EPC (from EPC membership)			
COMPOSITION		MEANS OF APPOINTMENT	DURATION
Chair: Faculty Senate Exec Committee rep	1	<i>See EPC above</i>	Two years
Secretary: Office of Curriculum Services	1	<i>See EPC above</i>	Continuing
Provost Office senior administrator	1	<i>See EPC above</i>	Two years
Faculty Senate members	2	<i>See EPC above</i>	Two years
Faculty members - degree colleges	2	Appointed by Exec EPC chair	One year
Total:	5		

CHARGE OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COUNCIL

The Educational Policies Council is charged with the following:

- Conceptual and structural aspects of long-range academic planning
- Overall curricular planning
- Arbitration of interdepartmental and intercollegial curricular disputes ([see page 6](#))
- Conformity of collegial and departmental curricular programs and proposals to university-wide policies
- Establishment, inactivation or significant revisions of academic programs
- Establishment or discontinuance of bodies or agencies that are directly related to academic programs
- Standards for admission and graduation of students
- Library policies and facilities
- Matters referred by college curriculum committees, advisory councils or the Faculty Senate that are related to issues affecting undergraduate and graduate education.

The Executive EPC is charged with the following:

- Preparing the agenda for council meetings
- Transacting routine business for the council between meetings

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN EPC MEETING

1. Review materials prior to the meeting. Contact the [Office of Curriculum Services](#) before the meeting if you cannot access the agenda or supporting documents or have any questions about a proposal.
2. Be mindful that any proposal coming before EPC should align with the university's mission and priorities, support student success and enhance and contribute to the reputation and integrity of a Kent State education.
3. Use the [Review Checklist](#) when reviewing any new program (new major, minor, certificate or even a new concentration). This checklist is for your personal use.
4. Talk to your colleagues and supporting staff about proposed initiatives coming before EPC to understand different perspectives, experiences and opinions that may better inform your decision. For example, if there is a proposed policy that affects students' overall requirements for graduation, you may want to consult with professional and faculty advisors prior to the meeting.
5. Have a basic understanding of Kent State's curriculum and academic policies. Resources: [Curriculum Guidelines](#), [University Catalog](#) and [Policy Register](#).
6. Understand that you will be serving as a participating member of the Kent State community with the responsibility of contributing to the overall benefit of the students and the university.
7. Prepare questions or comments for presenters at the meeting. You may also submit them via an [online question survey](#), which will then be either answered before or during the meeting.
8. **Come willing to participate in thoughtful discussion that is based on informed knowledge.**

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING EPC AGENDA STATUS

Action Items

Proposals listed under “Action Items” on the agenda are discussed and voted upon by EPC members. For some of these proposals, the EPC is the final recommending body to the Board of Trustees; others required further support/approvals before implementation ([see curricular approval chart](#)). EPC members can review the proposals in the [Curriculum Information Management \(CIM\)](#) system. Supporting documents for each action item are sent to EPC members to review before the meeting. Typical proposals listed under “Action Item” include the following:

- Minor – establishment, inactivation
- Certificate – establishment, inactivation
- Unique program (i.e., affects students from more than one academic unit; e.g., Military Studies, Washington Program) – establishment, revision, inactivation
- University academic requirement (e.g., Kent Core) – establishment, revision, inactivation
- University academic administrative policy (e.g., dismissal) – establishment, revision, inactivation
- University academic operational procedures or regulations (e.g., withdrawal from the university) – establishment, revision, inactivation
- Academic unit (e.g., college, school) – establishment, revision, inactivation
- Center or institute with curricular implications – establishment, revision, inactivation
- Major or degree – establishment, name revision, inactivation
- Campus/location – establishment, revision, inactivation

Discussion or Information Items

Proposals listed under “Discussion Items” or “Information Items” on the agenda are considered notification to the EPC. These items are not voted upon unless a motion to do so is made by an EPC member. EPC members can review the proposals in the [Curriculum Information Management \(CIM\)](#) system. Typical proposals listed under “Discussion Items” or “Information Items” include the following:

- Preliminary proposal for a new major or degree (“Program Development Plan”). This is a brief document outlining development of a new major or degree to be reviewed by the college, EPC and provost before submission of the full proposal.
- Temporary suspension of admissions into an academic program. Faculty may suspend admission into their program for maximum five years, after which it will be determined to either revise, reopen or inactivate.
- Offering (more than 50 percent) of an existing program at a regional campus, Kent State location (e.g., Twinsburg Center) or non-Kent State location (e.g., local high school).
- Fully online or mostly online delivery of an existing degree program; this may be online-only or online in addition to on-ground.
- Five-year review of certificate programs.
- Notifications from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Higher Learning Commission and/or the U.S. Department of Education regarding new and revised regulations, policies or procedures affecting the university.

Lesser Action Items

Proposals listed under “Lesser Action Items” on the agenda are not discussed or voted upon unless a motion is made by an EPC member to do so; they considered approved once the meeting is adjourned. These proposals are curricular changes delegated to each college to approve. EPC members can review the proposals in the [Curriculum Information Management \(CIM\)](#) system. Typical proposals listed under “Lesser Action Items” include the following:

- Major – revision (including new, revised, inactivated concentrations)
- Minor – revision
- Certificate – revision
- Articulation or consortia agreement with curricular implications – establishment, revision, inactivation
- Course – establishment, revision, inactivation
- Course designated a university requirement (e.g., Kent Core*, writing-intensive, experiential learning, orientation, American civic literacy) – establishment, revision, inactivation
- Academic policy or requirement within a unit – establishment, revision, inactivation

* *Designation of Kent Core status to a new or existing course will come to the EPC as an action item.*

EPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Faculty curricular bodies should be adding their recommendations into the Curriculum Information Management (CIM) system in order to make clear whether or not any disputes have taken place between a curricular body, another curricular body and/or an administrative body. One or more of these bodies may disagree with approval of a policy, program or course proposal.

The following process outlines steps for resolving disputes over policy, program or course proposals between faculty curricular bodies and administrators (or their representatives). The process also applies to conflicts between multiple faculty curricular bodies. The goal is to ensure a fair and transparent resolution mechanism within the shared governance framework.

Initiation of the Dispute Resolution Process

Disputes related to policies, programs, or course proposals may arise. In such cases:

- **Eligibility to Initiate:** Any member of a faculty curricular body who participated in the voting process or an administrator (or delegate) involved in the dispute may bring the dispute to the attention of the EPC Executive Committee where members will decide the item’s placement on the EPC agenda. Additionally, any EPC member may notice unresolved issues in the CIM system and take steps to notify a member of the EPC Executive Committee.
- **Action Item Elevation:** Disputes reported to the EPC will be added as an Action Item on the EPC agenda if they were not already designated as such.

Representation at the EPC Meeting

To ensure a fair and comprehensive discussion:

- One representative from each disputing faculty curricular body involved in the decision-making process will be invited to present their perspective at an EPC meeting.
- The administrator or designated delegate involved in the dispute will also be invited to present

their perspective.

Submission of Supporting Information

Each party must provide relevant information to support their position, including:

- A clear rationale for their stance.
- Supporting data/documentation used in the decision-making process.

Submission Guidelines: All materials must be uploaded to the CIM system or submitted directly to the EPC Executive Committee no later than one week before the scheduled meeting. This ensures sufficient time for review.

Discussion During the EPC Meeting

The dispute will be addressed during the EPC meeting as follows:

- Presentations: Representatives from each disputing party will present their positions.
- Clarifications: EPC members may ask questions to clarify points and gain a thorough understanding of the issue.
- Equal Opportunity: The EPC chair will ensure that each party is given an equal opportunity to speak and respond.

EPC Vote

After the discussion concludes:

- The EPC will hold a vote to determine the resolution of the dispute.
- The vote will follow EPC's established voting procedures.

Communication of Results

The decision will be documented and communicated as follows:

- The EPC will formally record its decision.
- Results will be shared with the Faculty Senate via the chair of Faculty Senate and the provost for transparency.

Further Escalation

If a party remains dissatisfied with the EPC's decision:

- They may appeal to the Faculty Senate for additional consideration.
- The Faculty Senate's decision will be final if specified as such in the university's curricular approval process (linked [here](#)).

CURRENT EPC SUBCOMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

Academic Calendar Advisory Committee (2021-Present)

Standing Committee

Co-chairs:

- Therese Tillett, Associate Vice President, Office of Curriculum Services
- *Faculty co-chair TBD*

Charge:

- Maintain a list of operating guidelines to be considered in planning the academic calendar
- Recommend future academic calendars to the university president
- Ensure that Kent State's instructional time is compliant with state, federal and accrediting regulations
- Evaluate requests for changes to the current or future calendars

Graduate Policy Council (2021-Present)

Standing Committee

Co-chairs:

- Melissa Zullo, Associate Dean, College of Public Health
- Erica Eckert, Assistant Professor, School of Foundations, Leadership and Administration

Charge:

- Determine immediate and long-range goals for graduate academic policies that provide a supportive learning environment for graduate students while upholding the scholarship, academic rigor and intellectual integrity of a Kent State graduate education
- Review graduate education issues that have been raised by the faculty, students and administrators/admin/staff and determine if the issue warrants recommendation of a new or revised policy
- Review proposals submitted to the EPC to establish or revise graduate academic policies, ensuring that such proposals align with the mission of the university, do not create unintended obstacles for student success and comply with institutional, state and federal regulations.
- Consult with internal and external sources and stakeholders, including those who will be affected directly by the policies and those who will be responsible for implementing and enforcing the policies
- Set and maintain a timeline for review of current graduate academic policies and procedures

Microcredential Committee (2023-Present)

Standing Committee

Co-chairs:

- Shelley Marshall, Senior Lecturer, College of Applied and Technical Studies
- Becca Pfingstl, Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning

Charge:

- Review and approve proposals for new credit-bearing micro-credentials using existing courses and resources
- Review and recommend policies, processes and procedures on micro-credentials
- Develop assessment tools and periodically assess and evaluate success of approved micro-credentials

Transfer Credit Committee (2021-Present)*Standing Committee*

Co-chairs:

- Misty Sommers, Assistant University Registrar, University Registrar's Office
- *Faculty co-chair TBD*

Charge:

- Review university-wide transfer policies and procedures
- Review credit requests for alternative learning credentials and applicability to college programs and/or university requirements through consultation with and approval from faculty affected by this credentialing toward their programs
- Recommend new and revised policies on the transfer of credits and awarding of Kent State credit/courses for special examinations and alternative learning credentials with and approval from faculty who apply the credit hours to their programs

Undergraduate Policy Council (2021-Present)*Standing Committee*

Co-chairs:

- Joanna Liedel, Director of Academic Partnerships, Office of Curriculum Services
- R. (Dirk) Remley, Professor, Department of English

Charge:

- Determine immediate and long-range goals for undergraduate academic policies that support the university's strategic priority of "Students First" while upholding the integrity, quality and standards of a Kent State undergraduate education
- Review undergraduate education issues that have been raised by the faculty, students, administrators and staff and determine if the issue warrants recommendation of a new or revised policy
- Review proposals submitted to the EPC to establish or revise undergraduate academic policies, ensuring that such proposals align with the mission of the university, do not create unintended obstacles for student success and comply with institutional, state and federal regulations.

- Consult with internal and external sources and stakeholders, including those who will be affected directly by the policies and those who will be responsible for implementing and enforcing the policies
- Set and maintain a timeline for review of current undergraduate academic policies and procedures

University Requirements Curriculum Committee (1997-Present)

Standing Committee

Co-chairs:

- Scott Sheridan, associate provost for academic affairs
- *Faculty co-chair TBD*

Charge:

- Periodically review and recommend changes in existing curricular requirements that apply to every undergraduate student, including the Kent Core, freshmen orientation and the diversity, writing-intensive and experiential learning requirements
- Review new courses and program proposals and make recommendations on them
- Initiate and monitor faculty development programs for instruction of these courses
- Assess student learning outcomes from university-wide required courses and programs

SECRETARY FOR THE EPC

The Office of Curriculum Services serves as secretary to the Educational Policies Council, reviewing all proposals for inclusion on the agenda, scheduling meetings and maintaining membership and the EPC membership listserv.

Therese Tillett

Associate Vice President

2-8558 | ttillet1@kent.edu

Contact for the following:

- New degrees or majors
- Academic policies
- Academic calendar
- Academic structure changes (e.g., departments)
- Curricular Guidelines
- Curriculum-related reporting
- Assignment of Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)

Jennifer Kellogg

Assistant Director for Curriculum Services

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Contact for the following:

- Training on Curriculum Information Management (CIM)
- Updates to University Catalog
- Updates to Search Majors and Degrees website
- Registration/prerequisite issues in Banner
- Curriculum liaison for the following colleges:
 - Communication and Information
 - Education and Human Services
 - Honors and Global Education
 - University

Kristi Kamis

Academic Program Coordinator

2-8559 | kkamis@kent.edu

Contact for the following:

- Updates to University Catalog
- Updates to Search Majors and Degrees website
- Registration/prerequisite issues in Banner
- Curriculum liaison for the following colleges:
 - Aeronautics and Engineering
 - Architecture and Environmental Design
 - Nursing
 - Public Health and Health Services
 - Sciences and Humanities
 - The Arts

Joanna Liedel

Director of Academic Partnerships

2-0550 | jliedel@kent.edu

Contact for the following:

- Ohio Department of Higher Education transfer initiatives and pathways
- Initiatives related to curriculum, advising, orientation and retention, as they support Academic Affairs processes and strategies

Amy Nuesch

Assistant Director for Academic Partnerships

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Contact for the following:

- Articulation agreements with U.S. institutions
- State Transfer Initiative Compliance
 - Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (OGTP)
 - Ohio Transfer 36 (OT36)
 - Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG)
 - Career-Technical Assurance Guide (CTAG)
 - Industry-Recognized Credential Assurance Guide (ITAG)
 - Military Transfer Assurance Guide (MTAG)
 - American Civic Literacy

Christa Ord

Operations and Special Projects Coordinator

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Contact for the following:

- Updates to University Catalog promos
- Updates to Search Majors and Degrees website
- EPC scheduling, membership and minutes
- Updates to University Catalog faculty and administrator pages
- Curriculum liaison for the following colleges:
 - Applied and Technical Studies
 - Business and Entrepreneurship
 - Podiatric Medicine
- Office management