

Educational Stewardship Committee¹

August 3, 2015

Description

The Educational Stewardship Committee (ESC) is a free-standing joint committee of the Provost's Office and the Faculty Senate at the University of Vermont.

Purpose

The purpose of the ESC is to ensure campus-wide good stewardship and coordination of the University's educational mission. The Committee is charged to provide recommendations to 1) safeguard the integrity of the University's educational mission with respect to stated tenets, particularly as those tenets may be impacted by the new incentive-based budget model (IBB); and 2) to provide recommendations to promote excellence in teaching and learning and the educational experience.

Structure and Authority

The ESC reports to both the Provost and the Faculty Senate Executive Council.

The Committee membership will include the following:

- the Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning*
- two representatives from the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
- a representative from the Financial and Physical Planning Committee of the Faculty Senate
- a representative from the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
- a representative from the Associate Dean's Group
- the Vice Provost for Student Affairs*
- the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning*
- a representative from the Student Services Collaborative
- Up to two ad hoc members from the Faculty Senate appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Council as needed in a given year to address expected issues

The ESC will be co-chaired by the Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning and one of the Faculty Senate representatives as appointed by the President of the Faculty Senate.

Non-permanent Committee members will serve three-year staggered terms for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The committee will meet on a regular basis, monthly or more frequently during the academic year, as determined by the co-chairs.

¹ Based in part on models at Cornell University

* Permanent member

Various University Officers such as the Budget Director, the Director of Institutional Research, the Registrar, a dean(s), etc., as well as faculty and/or staff with particular expertise will be asked to meet with the ESC on an as-needed basis.

Functions

- Monitor data from the Registrar's Office and the Office of Institutional Research to identify trends and concerns relevant to the budget's impact on the educational mission.
- Field concerns from any Administrative office, Faculty Senate Committee or University community members about practices that appear to be at odds with stated principles of educational excellence
- Solicit the campus community for ideas to promote the educational mission
- Identify opportunities and provide recommendations to improve teaching, learning and the educational experience
- Liaise with the academic units and the shared governance bodies to resolve issues and promote the educational mission
- Provide reports and recommendations on a regular basis to the Provost and the Faculty Senate Executive Council. Actions to address concerns will be handled under the purview of the Provost's Office, the Faculty Senate or the academic units as appropriate.

Operating Principles

- The Committee is not restricted to maintaining a status quo, but is empowered to think deeply about the University's core educational mission and to make recommendations accordingly.
- The Committee will consider the future of key areas of study, not focus on optimizing individual colleges.
- The Committee will aim to balance the interests of the individual colleges with the interests of undergraduate and graduate education for the institution as a whole.
- Before recommending actions, the Committee will seek solutions between or among the concerned parties.
- As a rule, the ESC's recommendations will be determined by consensus, not vote. As appropriate, recommendations may be put forward as a set of prioritized options with discussion of strengths and weaknesses.