

A University Senate Primer: Education Committee

Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

Why is the Education Committee important?

- The Education Committee is the sole educational policy body at Columbia that comprises elected faculty, students, administration, librarians, and alumni from across the university .
- The Committee is responsible for the review and approval of new schools, institutes, and academic programs.
- The Committee is crucial to monitoring academic programs and their quality, preparing reports to inform the educational mission of the University, and providing recommendations for changes to academic procedures.

Authority

The Statutory authority for the Education Committee is found in §23-24 of the University Statutes.

The Senate By-Laws further state:

“Committee on Education: The Committee on Education shall consist of 19 members apportioned as follows: 8 tenured faculty, 3 non-tenured faculty, 4 students at least one of whom will be a graduate student, 2 administration, 1 alumnus or alumna and 1 library staff. The Committee on Education shall review, and may from time to time recommend plans and policies relating to the education system of the University. The Committee shall receive ideas, recommendations, and plans for educational innovations from members of the faculty and others. The Committee shall inform itself of conditions in the several schools, faculties and departments, and propose measures needed to make the most effective use of the resources of the University for educational purposes.

The Committee shall examine new online/distance-learning and multimedia learning applications to understand their broad academic implications and to recommend policy, procedures, and monitoring in consultation with the committees on Libraries and Digital Resources and on Information and Communications Technology. It will evaluate the extent to which these enterprises enhance the core mission of the University.”

(University Senate By-Laws Sec.4.k.ii.)

The Work We Do

The Education Committee brings together faculty, students, librarians, and members of the administration to consider broad aspects of the educational experience at Columbia (broadly enumerated in the University Statutes). The Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals for academic programs, institutes, and schools, alongside undertaking follow-up reviews five years after the creation of a new program. The Committee works with the administration on policies related to the classroom. The Committee reviews and approves the academic calendar and any revisions to the calendar that may be required. See the current list of members here.

Major Policy Actions:

- Resolutions to establish faculties, schools, and institutes, including:
 - [Resolution to Amend the University Statutes to Establish the Faculty of Climate](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve the Establishment of the Roy and Diana Vagelos Institute for Biomedical Research Education](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve of the Tamer Institute for Social Enterprise and Climate Change](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve the Establishment of the Institute of Global Politics](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve the Establishment of the INCITE Institute](#)
- Resolutions to establish programs, including:
 - [Resolution to Approve an Academic Program Leading to the Master of Science in Climate](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve an Academic Program Leading to the Doctor of Philosophy in African American and African Diaspora Studies](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve an Academic Program Leading to the Master of Science in Political Analysis](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve an Academic Program Leading to the Master of Science in Quantum Science and Technology](#)
 - [Resolution to Approve an Academic Program Leading to the Executive Master of Science in Engineering](#)
- Changes to the academic calendar, including:
 - [Resolution to Approve Proposed Changes to the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#)
- Adjusting classroom policies, including:
 - [Resolution to Endorse the Policy for Recording Classes](#)

Learn more about the work we do:
<https://senate.columbia.edu/committees/education>