

Academic Excellence Committee Report

Committee Name: Academic Excellence Committee

Date of Report: 1/16/2025

Written/submitted by: Colleen Hansen

Date of last meeting: 10/14/2024

Next meeting date: February 13, 2025

Committee Update:

The Committee discussed how to reinvigorate the AEC's role in 'ensuring high academic standards at Nova Classical, true to the classical tradition and consistent with Nova Classical's mission and vision' by utilizing the newly polished definition of 'classical.'"

We created an edited version of the existing by-law definition of the committee's goals.

We discussed some data collection and reporting opportunities the committee could utilize in addition to test scores, but we will further research and discuss these in the next meetings.

Below are the current AEC goal, Friends of Education's stated purpose for the AEC, and NCA's definition of "classical education."

Motions/ Action Items for the Board Meeting:

For the Consent Agenda:

None

For the Business Section:

The AEC wishes to ask the Board to task the Governance Committee with including the updated AEC charge in the next Bylaws review.

"Resolved, that the Board task the Governance Committee to include the updated Academic Excellence Committee charge in the next Bylaws review, to be completed by the end of the 2024-2025 school year."

CURRENT CHARGE: The Academic Excellence Committee is charged by and shall be responsible to the Board for ensuring high academic standards at Nova Classical, true to the classical tradition and consistent with Nova Classical's mission and vision. The Academic Excellence Committee shall be chaired by a Director, shall include Nova Classical's Executive Director as a member, and shall strive to include as members additional representation from all Nova Classical constituencies.

PROPOSED CHARGE: The Academic Excellence Committee is charged by and shall be responsible to the Board for ensuring that Nova Classical maintains high academic standards, adheres to the board-approved classical education definition, and sustains academic operations consistent with the mission and vision as outlined in the Strategic Plan. The Academic Excellence Committee shall be chaired by a Director, shall include Nova Classical's Academic Director as a member, and include no less than one additional Director and no fewer than two individuals who are neither Directors nor officers of Nova Classical.

Sources utilized to create edited purpose:

- **AEC purpose according to bylaws:**
 - The Academic Excellence Committee is charged by and shall be responsible to the Board for ensuring high academic standards at Nova Classical, true to the classical tradition and consistent with Nova Classical's mission and vision. The Academic Excellence Committee shall be chaired by a Director, shall include Nova Classical's Executive Director as a member, and shall strive to include as members additional representation from all Nova Classical constituencies.
- **AEC purpose according to our FOE contract:**
 - For FY2023 through FY2026, the School's Board of Directors will evaluate academic progress at a public meeting at least twice annually and shall include a summary of its findings in the applicable board minutes.
- **Nova Classical Academy's Definition of Classical Education:**
 - We believe that classical education is participation in the Great Conversation which links humanity in trying to discern what is universally True, Beautiful, and Good. Classical education utilizes the Trivium — the Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric subjects of learning — as well as the Quadrivium — the subjects of Arithmetic, Music, Astronomy, and Geometry — as the best way to prepare students to participate by thinking for themselves and being liberated from blindly following others.
 - Within each stage of the Trivium, students practice knowing (didactic instruction), reasoning (logic/coaching instruction), and generating (rhetoric instruction) information, as classical education focuses on training

thinkers. Additionally, virtues are embedded in all instruction because knowledge without virtue is meaningless in the search for Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

- The goal of our classical education is engagement in the higher ideals of making deep thinkers who seek to live life well and effective citizens who are wise, moral, and ethical. Thus, the end of Nova Classical Academy's approach to classical education is the eudaimonia of each of its students. Loosely translated as “happiness,” or more literally “good spirit,” eudaimonia refers in Aristotelian philosophy as the highest human good. Like arête (virtue) and phronesis (practical or ethical wisdom), eudaimonia can be difficult to define, which makes it an excellent topic for the Great Conversation.

2024-2025

Committee Goals

“The Academic Excellence Committee is charged by and shall be responsible to the Board for ensuring high academic standards at Nova Classical, true to the classical tradition and consistent with Nova Classical’s mission and vision. The Academic Excellence Committee shall be chaired by a Director, shall include Nova Classical’s Executive Director as a member, and shall strive to include as members additional representation from all Nova Classical constituencies”. (Bylaws 2022)

Goal	Notes	Due Date/ Complete?
For FY2023 through FY2026, the School’s Board of Directors will evaluate academic progress at a public meeting at least twice annually and shall include a summary of its findings in the applicable board minute		