



**Grant Acceptance Policy Disappearing Task Force
Revised Quarterly Report
Fall 2024**

December 20, 2024

To: Geoduck Student Union, Faculty Agenda Committee, and Executive Leadership Team
From: Grant Acceptance Policy Disappearing Task Force
Subject: Fall Quarter 2024 Grant Acceptance Policy DTF Quarterly Report

Background

This Disappearing Task Force was created as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Evergreen State College and the Evergreen Gaza Solidarity Encampment on April 30, 2024. The MOU called for a task force charged to recommend a grant acceptance policy for the college. The policy would “provide criteria for accepting or refusing grant funding based on the purposes of the grant. Criteria would include such considerations as whether grants facilitate illegal occupations abroad, limit free speech, or support oppression of minorities” ([Memorandum of Understanding](#), 2024).

The Task Force was appointed in June and charged to complete the following tasks:

- 1) Conduct research about ethical philanthropy, academic freedom, Evergreen policies and practices related to grants, and relevant policies from other institutions.
- 2) Seek input from members of the Evergreen community before finalizing recommendations.
- 3) Provide quarterly progress reports to the Geoduck Student Union (GSU), the Faculty Agenda Committee, and the Executive Leadership Team.
- 4) Deliver recommendations to the Faculty, the President, the Faculty Agenda Committee, and the Board of Trustees by end of fall quarter 2024.
- 5) Identify and address how the policy proposals would (or would not) affect the academic freedom of members of the Evergreen community, and the principle of shared governance.

The complete charge is available [here](#). The Task Force met biweekly during the summer and in September 2024 issued a [summer quarterly report](#) of its work to date. The report summarized the details of the comprehensive work plan we developed to achieve the tasks outlined in the charge, creation of a community agreement for conducting our business, and the findings of our research on the topics outlined in the charge.

Fall progress report

At the beginning of fall quarter, the Task Force shifted its focus to developing a draft recommendation for a grant acceptance policy based on its research, and to gathering feedback from the Evergreen community about the draft policy recommendation. Early in this process, we met with the Investment DTF and shared overlaps in our research, particularly around socially responsible investment. We also gave a brief presentation of our work at the week 8 faculty meeting.

Task Force members collaboratively developed the [draft recommendation](#) during the first eight weeks of fall quarter. It was published December 2, the beginning of week 9.

During this period, Task Force members also developed and implemented a consultation plan for gathering community feedback about the draft policy. The plan provides two ways for community members to provide input. On December 2, we launched an online survey open to all students, faculty and staff. The survey deadline was extended from December 18 initially to January 1, 2025, to give faculty additional time to participate. We also offered three in-person sessions for group discussions during governance hours on December 9th and 11th. One discussion group was held for students only and was facilitated by student members of the Task Force; five students attended in addition to student members of the Task Force. Another session was held for any faculty and staff, which was attended by one individual in addition to Task Force members. The final session was held specifically for faculty and staff with experience working on or administering grants at the college; seven faculty and staff joined Task Force members for that discussion.

To solicit broad participation, the Task Force advertised both the survey and discussion sessions through various means, including flyers, directed emails, an Inside Evergreen email message, and posting on the front page of the college's Intranet and Grants and Foundation Relations' intranet sites. Student Task Force members also worked with the GSU to post the information via social media. The Task Force also received written and spoken feedback by means other than the survey and discussions.

Remaining tasks

The Task Force has worked diligently—in bi-weekly meetings and during many hours of asynchronous effort between meetings—to meet the end-of-fall-quarter deadline established in the charge. Unfortunately, this will not be possible. As fall quarter draws to a close, the Task Force has the following remaining tasks to fulfill its charge.

- 1) Analyze feedback from the survey, discussion group, and other sources.
- 2) Finalize the policy proposal after considering community input.
- 3) Describe how the policy proposal would or would not affect the academic freedom of members of the Evergreen community and the principle of shared governance.
- 4) Deliver our recommendations with a final report covering items 1-3 to the Faculty, the President, the Faculty Agenda Committee, and the Board of Trustees.

The Task Force has requested and received from President Carmichael an extension of the deadline to complete its remaining work, to January 31, 2025.