

Committee on Academic Policy

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3rd, 2021, 2:00 pm

Meeting #7 AY2021-2022

Meeting held at Fuller Labs Becket Conference Room (FL246)

Attendees: O. Pavlov (Chair; SSPS), B. Calli (Secretary; Robotics), A. C. Heinricher (Provost's Office), B. Servatius (Math), S. Zhou (Chemical Engineering), S. Levitan '24 (Student Representative), R. Gyurcsan '24 (Student Representative), S. Miles (Registrar)

1. Meeting started at 02:03 pm.
2. Meeting minutes for Meeting #6 AY2021-2022 were reviewed and approved with minor revisions.
3. Discussions on the eProjects 2.0 system:
  - a. CAP was notified that the CAP member, B. Servatius, joined the eProjects 2.0 Advisory Committee to help the efforts towards making eProjects 2.0 system compliant with the existing academic policies.
  - b. CAP discussed adding a student representative to the eProjects 2.0 Advisory Committee as well. The student representatives will discuss it further with students at large and provide feedback to CAP.
  - c. CAP will continue monitoring eProjects 2.0.
4. In the previous meeting, CAP identified that there is no central repository for current academic policies. In this meeting,
  - a. CAP decided to create a webpage to collect academic policies and provide a link from the CAP webpage, similar to the CAO's "Operational Guidelines" page.
  - b. CAP recognizes that identifying every single academic policy that has been passed in previous years will require significant effort. CAP will gradually populate this repository.
5. CAP is working on the motion on the posthumous degree policy.
6. Discussion about students' ability to change their grade to "Pass"/"NR"
  - a. To moderate the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on WPI students, a policy was put in place during D-term 2020 and E-term 2020. The students were able to change their letter grades to "Pass"/"NR".
  - b. Due to the recent crises affecting the WPI community, CAP discussed whether putting in a similar policy in place in the 2021-2022 academic year might help reduce student stress.
  - c. CAP student representatives will collect student feedback about continuing this policy.
  - d. CAP recognizes the potential negatives of reinstating a "Pass"/"NR" policy. For example, some graduate and medical schools interpret the "Pass" grade as the worst possible passing grade. An option could be to allow a limited number of Pass/NR conversions.
  - e. A feasibility study will be conducted by the Registrar about implementing the Pass/NR policy.
  - f. CAP will continue discussing this issue.

- g. CAP will collect more information regarding policies for proposing or retiring a program. CAP recognizes that the number of students majoring in a program should not be the sole criterion for proposing or retiring a program.

7. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Berk Calli  
B-term Secretary