WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
January 16, 2020

To: The WPI Faculty

From: Tanja Dominko
          Secretary of the Faculty

The fifth Faculty meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year will be held on **Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 3:15 pm in Olin Hall 107**.

1. Call to Order   T. Dominko

   - Approval of the Agenda
   - Approval of the Consent Agenda and the Minutes from 12-12-19

2. Welcome   T. Dominko

3. Committee Reports

   - **Committee on Academic Policy (CAP)**   G. Heineman
     1. Online Course Reporting system
     2. Policies and practices guiding MQP projects

4. Reports

   - **Implementation of Global School – an update**   J. McNeill
                                                                    K. Rissmiller

   - **WPI Journal as a faculty resource**   D. Manning

5. New Business

6. Closing Announcements

7. Adjournment

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Faculty Meeting Materials, January 16, 2020

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
Faculty Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2019

Summary:
1. Call to Order
2. SoF Report
3. President's Report
4. Committee Business: CAO: CGSR: COG/CITP: CGSR
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Detail:
1. Call to Order
The fourth Faculty meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order at 3:21pm in Olin Hall 107 by **Prof. Dominko (BBT).** She reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of accuracy in taking minutes. The amended agenda and consent agenda (including the minutes from the November 7, 2019 Faculty meeting, and two additional motions {7&8} from CAO) were approved.

2. Secretary of the Faculty Report
Prof. Dominko reviewed accomplishments of faculty governance committees during Fall 2019, and previewed items likely to be included on faculty meeting agenda for the remainder of the academic year (See **Addendum #1** appended to these minutes). She discussed areas such as Faculty Salary Study (FAP); Student pay during MQPs and IQPs (from CAP); Credits delivered and accreditation (COG); and she summarized the progress of WPI Forward group (which is not for distribution as of yet).

3. President's Report
President Leshin spoke about WPI Forward, and how the process, in order to be inclusive and transparent, takes a while, is slow and deliberate, and increases the stress level for people. She stated that Huron has conducted 50 interviews so far, with more to happen in 2020. She stressed that decisions are not being made behind closed doors, and that no decisions have been made. Beginning in January, they will be talking to supervisors, so they can better inform the front line managers, and that open sessions will be held for Faculty for budget processing. The President stated that, while it would be great to have VP Solomon here to do something short on where the 10 million number came from, she could tell everyone, from the plots she showed, with net price vs peers, the number is from the net analysis of that. She stated that we have to increase our discount rate and increase our contingency because of greater uncertainty in the current market, and in adding those factors. The President stated that they were happy to do Faculty drop-in sessions, that the team is doing a really good job, and that she is thrilled to have Professors Dominko, Elmes and Johnson representing Faculty Governance and many years on the front line, knowing what is mission critical land what may be flexible.

The President announced that there are currently 6000 applications for the Class of 2024, 6% ahead in applications to date from last year. More funds have been allocated for financial aid, and she is keeping a close eye on it, lest anyone should think otherwise.

President Leshin stated that at the last Faculty meeting, she stood and made a comment about where we're headed with the Task Force on Teaching track colleagues here at WPI. She stated that she is very enthusiastic about this work, and that this is hard work, grappling with challenges. She thanked the Faculty Committees and the Secretary of the Faculty for bringing these issues to the floor. She talked about the roles that everyone has to play and that Prof. Dominko had stated it correctly: the idea of bringing forward the creation of a teaching path to tenure is the role of the Faculty here, that she looks forward to this, and that obviously it would need to be ratified by the Board, but that it is a Faculty responsibility. She stated that the Administration are also looking at longer term commitments to people who currently have a teaching professor title and those are things that the administration can and should do on their end. She has asked the Provost to develop a process for this. She stated that we all have our roles to play here; that budget and a new line of financial track is the Administration responsibility, which will be a work in progress and communicated with the Faculty. She stated that there is another opportunity that the Faculty body has, to give all full-time Faculty a voice and a right to vote. She wants to say for the record, that it is the right thing to do. She reiterated that she cannot make that happen, that it is up to the Faculty body to do.

4. Committee Business
CAO
Prof. Strong (FBS), for the Committee on Academic Operations (CAO), moved to approve the December 2019 undergraduate student graduation list (which includes one update) for December 30, 2019 graduation. (See **Addendum #2** appended to these minutes). The motion passed.

CGSR
Prof. Fischer (ME), for the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR), moved to approve the December 2019 graduate student graduation list (which includes nine updates) for December 30, 2019 graduation. (See **Addendum #3** appended to these minutes). The motion passed.

COG/CITP
Prof. Shue (CS), for the Committee on Governance (COG) and the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP), moved to adopt a WPI Research Data Retention and Maintenance Policy. (See **Addendum #4** appended to these minutes). **Prof. Billiar** (BME) inquired about the three-year minimum, and whether data would be automatically deleted. Prof. Shue suggested talking with someone in IT, and assured everyone that before any information was deleted, the IT people would reach out to individuals first. Siamak Najafi explained that if data was deleted today, it could be recovered within a three year period. If the data is not touched, nothing will be lost. **Prof. Fischer** (ME) asked about the six-year maximum. Again, Prof. Shue suggested speaking with IT individuals. VP Patria explained that the six-year maximum was the default. Siamak Najafi reiterated that if no information is deleted by the individual, no information would be deleted by IT. The motion passed.

COG/CITP
Prof. Shue (CS), for the Committee on Governance (COG) and the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP), moved to adopt an Academic and Research Computing (ARC) User Account Policy. (See **Addendum #5** appended to these minutes).   One omission from the originally-distributed version was described by Prof. Dominko. **Prof. El-Korchi** (CEE) inquired about possible violations, and the acceptable-use policy. Prof. Shue stated that the existing acceptable-use policy has provisions

on what happens if people violate it. He stated that most violations would be students, so Campus Hearing Board would be involved with those. Account termination is a possibility with repeated violation of the policy. **Torbjorn Bergstrom** (ME Operations Manager) asked why we are avoiding unethical and illegal use. Prof. Shue stated that the actual motion has more specific wording, and that that specific behavior is prohibited. The motion passed.

CGSR

Prof. Fischer (ME), for the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research, moved to approve a new MS Program in Business Analytics (See **Addendum #6** appended to these minutes). Prof. Johnson (FBS) gave a brief background on this motion. **Prof. Ryder** (BBT) asked if this is a combination with Data Science, since there aren't many data science courses involved. Prof. Strong stated that it is not a combination with data science, but a complement to data science, targeting a different set of students and a different set of skills. The motion passed.

CGSR

Prof. Fischer (ME), for the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research, moved to approve a new MS Program in Systems Engineering Leadership (See **Addendum #7** appended to these minutes). **Prof. Swartz (CPE)** and **Dean Taylor (FBS)** gave a brief background on this motion. **Prof. Weekes** (MA) asked if those who would benefit from a Systems Engineering degree, know what Systems Engineering is, are there other wording to describe the degree. Prof. Swartz and Dean Taylor explained that this is the typical term in the industries. President Leshin asked if this was part of a big proposal which is currently in the works for WPI. Dean Taylor stated that he was aware of the proposal, but that this motion has been in progress for quite a while now. **Prof. Gaudette (BME)** asked about the Faculty members involved with this program, and what academic departments approved it. Prof. Gaudette stated that he had spoken with the ECE department head, who stated the department did not approve it, that it was tabled at last discussion. Prof. Gaudette expressed concern that this program would take away from existing programs. Prof. Swartz explained that this is an interdisciplinary program, which would use the current systems engineering Faculty as well as Business Faculty. He stated that it will increase the student body and is of great interest to people who want to learn about system oriented but that don't want direct engineering, those who want leadership or marketing or management roles. The motion passed.

CGSR

Prof. Fischer (ME), for the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research, moved to approve a new PhD in Computational Media (See **Addendum #8** appended to these minutes). **Profs. Smith** (CS) and **deWinter** (HUA/IMGD) gave a brief background on this motion. **Dean Taylor** asked for a brief explanation of the difference of a terminal research degree and a terminal practice degree. Prof. deWinter explained that a PhD is a methods-driven research project. She stated that if you are making a piece of computational media , it is to either develop tolls, answer methods to given research and begin to generate either work that can be funded externally but always publishable as part of the community, sharing and expanding upon research ideas. Some places you would expect to see students publishing or presenting on this type of research would be, for example, Interactive Digital Entertainment or the Society of Cinema Studies. Prof. deWinter explained that an MFA is a terminal degree of artists and practitioners not generating research. She stated that the idea is that the object itself is the unique contribution and that they would probably be collaborating with museums or exhibiting their works, going around in artist communities or doing workshops. The idea being, rather than generating

knowledge via words, they generate new expressive means via their objects. **Prof. Wobbe** (CBC) asked about career opportunities for PhDs. Prof. Smith explained that there are varieties of kinds of departments that take people who hold PhDs in computational media pending on the target area of their work, including other universities with computational media departments, digital media departments, information science or computer science Design departments. She also stated that there are industry research positions available in computational media, research companies like Microsoft research, Disney research, and independent research, studio-based works, which are often smaller groups. The motion passed.

CGSR
Prof. Fischer (ME), for the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research, moved to approve a new MFA Program in Interactive Media and Game Design (See **Addendum #9** appended to these minutes). Prof. deWinter gave a brief background on this motion. **Prof. Scarlata** (CBC) asked if this program would help attain internships and present their works in public. Prof. deWinter stated that the internships will work with the Career Development Center, and that there were established partnerships with area cultural institutions (Worcester Center for Crafts, Worcester Art Museum) which are under-filled, so it would be no problem getting them into those spaces. The program is also working with Dean Camesano about establishing an on-campus teacher-training program. **Prof. Gaudette** (BME) brought up concerns about accreditation and whether this program changes the WPI mission. Prof. deWinter stated that, since this was a new degree type, it doesn't change the current mission, the process needs to show that it falls within the mission. **President Leshin** asked about the excitement for this program. Prof. deWinter stated that, since WPI is a STEM school, the arts are an integral part of SATEM, moving into design thinking to strengthen our area. The demand is already high for this work, and MFA's in this line of work are inherently technical. Since this is a terminal degree, and with WPI in game design or interactive media just growing all over the world, this gets WPI's reputation out, and PhD's would be obtained in three years as opposed to seven. She stated that WPI would be in line with other universities having MFA's such as RPI, MIAT, Carnegie Mellon and Cal Tech. **Prof. Fehribach** (MA) stated that this program could strengthen WPI overall. **Prof. Wobbe** (CBC) asked if these would be tuition-based students in the program. Prof. deWinter confirmed that was true. Prof. Wobbe also asked how many additional courses would be required between the PhD and the MFA. Prof. deWinter stated that there would be an added two full courses and two colloquiums. Prof. Wobbe asked about additional Faculty needed. Prof. deWinter stated that additional Faculty would be needed if the program grows to the degree they expect it to grow to, but that additional Faculty would not be invested in until proof of that growth. The motion passed.

5. Closing Announcements
Stefan Koppi (Executive Director, CDC) asked the Faculty for help with outcomes data through the December Annual Faculty Newsletter. He explained that if Faculty recognize a name on the list of last year's class members, who he hasn't been able to find results for, to please let him know if that person is in graduate school, working, or whatever information they may have to share.

Dean Weekes (Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, ad interim) asked the Faculty to submit information on any peer-reviewed research publications (with undergraduate co-authors).

8. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm by **Prof. Dominko**.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanja Dominko
Secretary of the Faculty

Addenda on file with these minutes:
1. Addendum #1 SoF Report, Prof. Dominko – December 12, 2019
2. Addendum #2 CAO, December 30, 2019 Undergraduate Student Graduation List – December 12, 2019
3. Addendum #3 CGSR, December 30, 2019 Graduate Student Graduation List – December 12, 2019
4. Addendum #4 COG/CITP, Motion to adopt a WPI Research Data Retention and Maintenance Policy – December 12, 2019
5. Addendum #5 COG/CITP, Motion to adopt a WPI Academic and Research Computing (ARC) User Account Policy- December 12, 2019
6. Addendum #6 CGSR, motion to approve a new MS Program in Business Analytics – December 12, 2019
7. Addendum #7 CGSR, motion to approve a new MS Program in Systems Engineering Leadership – December 12, 2019
8. Addendum #8 CGSR, motion to approve a new PhD in Computational Media – December 12, 2019
9. Addendum #9 CGSR, motion to approve a new MFA Program in Interactive Media and Game Design – December 12, 2019