

**Minutes of the Committee on Academic Operations (CAO)
Meeting #3 of AY 2021-22**

Date and Time: Tuesday September 21, 2021, 11:00AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Virtual meeting via video conference

Attendees: L. Elgert (SSPS), M. Ephraim (HUA), A. Gericke (CBC, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies), K. McAdams (Academic Programs), S. Miles (Registrar), P. Musacchio (CBC, Secretary), P. Reilly (Assistant Dean of Student Success), G. Rios (undergrad rep), J. Srinivasan (BBT), L. Titova (PH, Chair)

The meeting was called to order by Prof. Titova at 11:03AM.

Old Business:

1. CAO-Minutes-Meeting2-Sep7-2021 were approved.
2. BBT provided necessary clarification for BB 294X.

New Business:

1. Motion to add the experimental course *RBE 470X Artificial Intelligence for Robotics* was conditionally approved pending clarification to assessment questions.
2. Motion to add the experimental course *RBE 460X Human Factors and Human-Robot Interfaces* was conditionally approved pending clarification in assessment and student background.
3. In light of recent community losses, the committee discussed the need for a policy for posthumous or in memoriam degrees. Recommendation to develop such policy will be brought to CAP by Registrar S. Miles.
4. Motion for awarding of posthumous degrees to Lorenzo DeSimone and Jeffrey Wu was introduced by A. Gericke and approved. Will be brought to the full faculty at the October 7, 2021 meeting.
5. Since CAO is responsible for monitoring procedures for administering admission policies, the committee will invite Andrew Palumbo, Assistant VP for Enrollment Management & Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid, to the next CAO meeting (September 28, 2021). On March 11, 2021, WPI adopted 8-year test-blind admissions policy. CAO would like to get and review early data for the first year of test-blind admission, and the needs for data collection and assessment of policy outcomes going forward. The committee thinks it would be important for the faculty to understand the factors that may have contributed to the high yield in the Class of 2026, and the

implications it has for academic programs, especially those delivering large enrollment first year courses. The overall goal is to increase faculty understanding of admission trends and impact of admissions policies on academic programs. An annual report to CAO on this matter may be ideal.

Meeting concluded at 11:49AM

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Z. Musacchio (Secretary CAO)