

CASL Meeting Minutes
#5 November 18th, 2022
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Attendees: Jeannine Coburn (chair), Daniel DiMassa (secretary), Meghan Barry (undergraduate representative), Francesca Bernardi, Jim Doyle, Arne Gericke, Arnold Lane, Paul Reilly, Naitik Zaveri (graduate representative)

Call to Order: 9:03

Introductions

Guest: Stan Horton, Director of Title IX

Committee member Francesca Bernardi provided background on CASL's potential involvement in question formation on a student climate survey as required by the state of Massachusetts.

Director of Title IX, Stan Horton, explained that the climate survey will go out in 2024. In late Spring 2023, the baseline questions that are issued by the state of MA will be released to universities. CASL will engage with reviewing these questions and provide feedback on supplementing the questions, where possible. Rollout of the survey to students will occur in Spring 2024. There is an opportunity for CASL to partner with Stan on interpretation of results and creation of a report for the community.

WPI's Title IX is currently working on reporting numbers for 2020-21. Stan would like to share that information with CASL by Jan. 1.

Discussion ensued among committee members about changes to Title IX that may be forthcoming from the Biden administration.

Approval of Minutes from Meeting #4

Announcement

Center for Well-Being will hold an open house in December.

Discussion Items

Committee discussed a draft of a one-pager on how academic advising is practiced among graduate programs at WPI. Committee identified inconsistencies in how faculty advisors are assigned to graduate students across different departments, as well as in how this information is (or is not) documented in Workday.

Given the limits of CASL's purview, committee members suggested reaching out to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who might draft an advising model that accommodates students and faculty.

Some committee members suggested that the shortcomings of advising among the graduate school are known, but that these shortcomings are the result of a resource problem.

Committee further discussed the need to clarify roles of faculty advisors vis-a-vis student success managers.

Updates

“Just-in-time” advisor training with support from the Morgan Center has been confirmed for late January or early February. The session focuses on how to advise undergraduates and will encompass the breadth of the undergraduate curriculum. Everyone is welcome, even if just for refresher training.

Adjournment: 10:01AM