

## Committee on Academic Policy (CAP): Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2023, 3:00 pm

Meeting #22 AY2022-2023

Meeting held via Zoom

Attendees: Brigitte Servatius (MA, CAP Chair), Jeanine Dudle (CEE, EDC Representative), Fiona Levey (MME), Samuel Levitan '24 (Student Representative), Oleg Pavlov (SSPS), Sarah Wodin-Schwartz (MME), Arne Gericke (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), and Sarah Miles (Registrar)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Minutes for Meeting #21 (4/24/23) were approved with minor changes.
3. CAP noted that there are now many undergraduate students who either pursue double majors or study in interdisciplinary programs. Therefore, CAP plans to examine if the section in the undergraduate catalog that describes MQPs reflects accurately the current needs of the student population.
4. Professor Servatius informed CAP that the eProjects system now allows students to initiate projects. CAP has been advocating for this feature in eProjects since 2021.
5. Professor Servatius informed the committee that a beta version of an online repository of CAP minutes is active. She will work with the IT office on uploading CAP minutes to the repository.
6. Professor Levey, Chair of the CAP subcommittee on test-blind admissions, provided an update on the subcommittee's work.
  - a. The subcommittee met with representatives of the Admissions office and the Institutional Research office. The purpose of the meetings was to understand the reasons for introducing the test-blind admissions policy and to learn what data are available.
  - b. The goal of the test-blind admissions was to diversify the application pool.
  - c. The Undergraduate Studies office has been analyzing trends in first-year student performance, for example, in math courses. The disturbances due to the COVID pandemic complicate the analyses. For instance, during the pandemic, workloads were lowered in some courses.
  - d. It may be possible to examine national trends (e.g. SAT scores) to see how COVID affected high school student performance in general.
  - e. The subcommittee will provide a report on available data for discussion by CAP in the new academic year.
7. Dean Gericke reported that there is strong student demand for summer courses. He explained that WPI has been offering 5-week summer terms because: (i) students prefer 5-week courses, rather than 7-week courses in the summer; and (ii) it is difficult to fit 7-week summer terms into the academic calendar. The 5-week summer courses have the same number of contact hours as 7-week courses.
8. For the next academic year, Professor Servatius volunteered to continue to serve as a CAP appointee on the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP). Professor Dudle volunteered to continue as a CAP appointee on the Educational Development Council (EDC).
9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Oleg Pavlov  
CAP Secretary, D 2023