

Committee on Academic Policies, CAP, Annual Report

Prepared by Brigitte Servatius

AY 2022-2023

2022-2023 CAP members

Brigitte Servatius (MA, CAP Chair, CIPT Representative)
Berk Calli (RBE)
Jeanine Dudle (CEAE, EDC Representative, C-term Secretary)
Fiona Levey (MME, A-term Secretary)
Oleg Pavlov (SSPS, D-term Secretary)
Sarah Wodin-Schwartz (MME, B-term Secretary)
Samuel Levitan (Student Representative)
V. R. Kasireddy (Student representative C-term)
R. Gyurcsan (Student representative)
Arne Gericke (Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies)
Sarah Miles (Registrar)

Report

CAP met 22 times during the 22/23 academic year. From Figure 1 ¹ it should be clear that we did not get to all of the agenda items, but we have a record of concerns raised.

CAP brought two motions to the WPI faculty.

- Motion to modify WPI's Electronic Project Submission Policy to allow changes related to privacy and confidentiality without any time constraints, and to update the WPI undergraduate catalog to reflect these changes
- Motion to approve a new undergraduate program, BS Financial Technology (FinTech; Prof. Hall-Phillips).

¹With this figure I just want to make my point that record keeping ought to be done using simple text files. The figures, which might have justified an elaborate pdf, were created in no time by running the text, the only content, through a silly online processor. The content, the text for the entire year of both agenda and minutes, takes up only a few kilobytes and can be processed and managed as a whole. Emphasizing the non-content - the italics, and fonts and bullets and dancing emojis, multiplies and dominates the time of production and the storage is increased by several orders of magnitude. But even in plain text we have ways of producing the dancing @#\$\$%&'ing emojis!!!

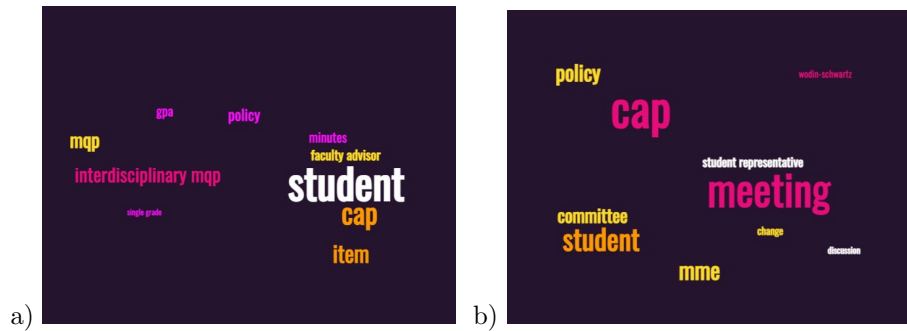


Figure 1: A word cloud of a) our agenda items, b) of our meeting minutes.

Both motions were approved on April 18 by the WPI faculty.

CAP thanks the IT-department, in particular Ermal Toto, for setting up a searchable repository of CAP minutes. It is CAP’s goal to have a complete catalogue of academic policies.

CAP notes, again with gratitude to the IT-department, that the eProjects system now allows students to initiate projects. CAP has been advocating for this feature in eProjects since 2021.

CAP was also looking into WPI’s test-blind admissions policy. The WPI faculty approved in 2021 the test-blind admission policy for a trial period of 8 years. WPI had been test optional since 2007. When faculty approved the test-blind policy, CAP was tasked with evaluating the effect of this policy on WPI. A CAP subcommittee was formed to assess available data and determine the best data to use for evaluating the test-blind admission policy. The subcommittee consisted of Professor Fiona Levey (MME), Professor Oleg Pavlov (SSPS), Dean Arne Gericke (Dean, UG studies, ad interim) and Mr. Sam Levitan (Student Representative on CAP). F Levey, O Pavlov and A Gericke solicited input from three sources: trends in admissions practices from pre-test optional through test-blind through the Admissions office; data available through the office of the Dean of UG studies; and data showing trends related to student admissions for 2010 to present through WPI’s Institutional Research office. The subcommittee provided a list of data that can be collected, along with several possible recommendations that CAP might consider making to the faculty and recommended that CAP discuss the available options at the start of the new academic year.