

## **CASL Meeting #3 Minutes**

**October 13 2023**

**9:00AM – 10:00AM**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Francesca Bernardi, Daniel DiMassa (chair), Jim Doyle (secretary), Rudra Kafle, Jane Li, Emily Perlow, Arnold Lane, Adam Powell, Paul Reilly, Sarah Stanlick, Rachel LeBlanc (guest)

**Call to Order:** 9:02AM

1. Sarah Stanlick joined CASL as the Provost's appointee, replacing Arne Gericke.
2. Emily Perlow (Dean of Students) and Rachel LeBlanc (Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives) delivered a presentation on the results of the Undergraduate Enrolled Student Survey conducted in the Spring of 2023. The survey had previously been conducted in 2019, allowing opportunity to examine changes in the past few years. CASL had provided input into the questions asked on the survey last year.

It was noted that the undergraduate population has grown 13% since 2019. The response rate to the survey was 41%. Respondents were generally representative of the UG population, although more women than men responded and athletes and international students were underrepresented. A significant demographic shift in sexual orientation and gender identity was noted (the percentage of students identifying as straight or heterosexual decreasing from 86% in 2019 to 68% in 2023). The number of students disclosing mental health conditions and ADD/ADHD remains high.

Notable findings from the survey included:

Overall satisfaction with UG education is high, with 80% of students reporting being satisfied or very satisfied. 85% of respondents said they would choose to go to WPI again. International students, however, showed a significant decrease in satisfaction since 2019.

Students are increasingly dissatisfied with the availability of courses. Availability of study space is also a concern to students.

Students are generally highly satisfied with the quality of instruction. However, students with a disclosed disability report lower satisfaction.

Students report being generally satisfied with academic advising. BIPOC/ALANA students reported higher than average levels of satisfaction. Students reported seeing their faculty adviser at a higher rate than in 2019. But more than a third of students had not engaged with their academic adviser in the past year.

Students with no co-curricular activities are lower than average on sense of flourishing, community, and belongingness as well as self-efficacy (ability to manage adversity).

Students still report feeling overwhelmed at a high level (62%, down from 68% in 2019). 18% of students reported symptoms of depression.

The survey data are available to any faculty upon request. The Committee discussed how to best share these findings with students. Emily Perlow will provide CASL members with access to the survey data. The Committee agreed to discuss the results further at a future meeting and to identify priorities for CASL discussion and potential action.

3. The minutes of the September 26 meeting of CASL were reviewed and approved.

4. The Committee briefly discussed the 2017 report of the Academic Advising Task Force. It was agreed to review the report at a future meeting to determine which recommendations had been followed up on which had not, and for the latter to decide their current relevance and feasibility.

5. The Graduate Studies office has invited a representative from CASL to attend the next meeting of graduate coordinators on Nov. 15. Daniel DiMassa and Jim Doyle will attend.

6. Discussion of how to encourage effective inclusion of academic advising activities into tenure and promotion processes will be added to CASL/s Spring agenda.

7. Chrys Demetry will join the next CASL meeting on Nov. 3 to discuss plans for the continuation of last year's "Just-in-Time" training for academic advisors.

**Adjournment: 9:51AM**

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Doyle (Secretary)