

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

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024, 10:00 am, Taylor Room

Meeting #4 AY 2024-2025

Attendees: J. Dudle (CEAE, CAP Chair and EDC Representative), B. Antupit (student rep), N. Farny (BBT), A. Gericke (Dean of Undergraduate Studies ad interim), D. Heilman (CBC, UOAC Representative), M. Leatherman (Student rep), S. Miles (Registrar), L. Roberts (BBT), F. Zoutendyk (MME)

Attending: M. Claypool (Secretary of the Faculty)

- Minutes from 9-11-24 meeting were reviewed, edited, and approved
- Several faculty had contacted CAP to express concern at the apparent lack of inclusion of Faculty Governance in the development and implementation of recent student transfer agreements (prompted by new agreements presented at the first Faculty meeting on September 4, 2024). Dean Gericke presented and reviewed the finalized transfer agreements that WPI has recently established with several colleges and universities. Dean Gericke expressed that CAP has not been involved in the establishment of previous institutional transfer agreements, and that the content of the agreements involves standards and decisions from Admissions that do not fall within the purview of academic policy. After walking through an example standardized agreement, he noted that these agreements adhere to existing policies from the course catalog, and that departments still make decisions on all discipline-specific course transfer credits.
- Mark Claypool expressed the view that CAP and/or CAO should be involved in any/all decisions for transfer agreements as this generally falls within the purview of admissions policy (CAP's responsibility is "reviews the admission and financial aid policies"), and affects academics more broadly. For effective shared governance - and to generally produce better policies - faculty should be consulted for input and given opportunities to review any agreements before being finalized. If there are questions as to whether the purview for such input belongs to CAP or CAO, the committees themselves and the Secretary of Faculty should be consulted to help make a decision of jurisdiction. Getting faculty input not only will produce better policies moving forward, but will also help provide confidence and commitment from the faculty in supporting any new policies.
- Extensive discussion ensued on the topic.
- While it may not have been the practice of including CAP in the development of such agreements previously, it was agreed that moving forward, CAP will be involved in discussions and review of future transfer agreements.
- CAP contacted Cathy Battelle, who has kindly agreed to provide detailed scheduling data that CAP can use to discuss and formulate recommendations on potential improvements and/or alternative models to the current course schedules.
- CAP has requested additional data on student application pools, admitted students, and enrolled students towards providing more information for the upcoming presentation on the draft motion to suspend the Test Blind Admissions Policy.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am