

Committee on Academic Policy (CAP): Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2024, 2:00pm; Mid-Century Room

Meeting #7 AY 2024-2025

Attendees: B. Antupit (student representative), A. Gericke (Dean of Undergraduate Studies ad interim), D. Heilman (CBC, UOAC representative), M. Leatherman (student representative), S. Miles (Registrar), L. Roberts (BBT), S. Wodin-Schwartz (MME), F. Zoutendyk (MME).

Not in attendance: J. Duddle (CEAE, CAP Chair and EDC Representative) and N. Farny (BBT)

Meeting called to order at 2:05pm.

Prof. Zoutendyk led the meeting. Prof. Zoutendyk introduced three topics for discussion for this and upcoming CAP meetings- the motion to end the test-blind admissions policy, the master transfer agreement between WPI and community colleges, and the CAP working group focusing on student course reports.

The discussion focused on the motion to end the test-blind pilot. Slides were edited for presentation at the November faculty meeting, at which the motion will be discussed and is expected to be brought for a vote.

The committee discussed the draft slides which focus on qualitative information, given the quantitative data has already been presented. Associate Vice President, Admissions & Dean of Admissions Jennifer Cluett has provided extensive input on WPI's Admissions process for the slides that explain the justification for ending the pilot. Dean Cluett is planning to attend and answer questions at the November faculty meeting.

The committee discussed the importance of illuminating the preparation the Admissions Team undertakes and overall process they utilize when making admission decisions. For example, the Admissions Team goes through an extensive training and norming process, in part to address bias, privilege, and systemic barriers that exist. The committee feels it may be beneficial if faculty are aware of the WPI admissions decision-making process, which weighs and balances all the elements of an applicant's portfolio in their proper context.

Comparisons to admissions models at other universities were drawn, and the committee discussed the previous WPI test-optional policy as being very similar to the "do-no-harm" policy at other institutions. If a standardized test score is high, it can have a positive effect for the applicant; a lower score on a standardized test will have no negative impact for the applicant.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.