Committee on Academic Policy (CAP): Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 2:00pm; Taylor Room
Meeting #14 AY 2024-2025

Attendees: J. Dudle (CEAE, CAP Chair and EDC Representative), N. Farny (BBT; via zoom), A. Gericke (Dean of Undergraduate Studies ad interim), D. Heilman (CBC, UOAC representative; via zoom), M. Leatherman (student representative), L. Roberts (BBT), S. Wodin-Schwartz (MME), F. Zoutendyk (MME, CAP secretary, C term)

Guests: E. Perlow (Dean of Students), N. Blank (Office of the Dean of Undergraduate studies)

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm.

2. Dean Perlow presented the history and current implementation of the academic honesty policy and requested CAP's feedback about a) the policy itself and b) the process for resolution of suspected cases of academic dishonesty.

a) The policy itself: This has not been updated recently to reflect changes in the academic landscape, which include new pedagogical contexts such as ungrading and AI. Furthermore, there are conflicting examples given in the policy and various other guidance documents. Dean Perlow requested a discussion about updating the policy to give definitions only and remove the examples from the policy. She suggested housing all examples in a single separate repository under the purview of the Dean of Students Office. Discussion ensued. CAP agrees that separating the policy from the examples will afford more clarity and adaptability regarding both the policy and currently acceptable practices.

b) The process: The current process can feel onerous, so some faculty may find alternative routes for resolution. Discussion ensued about challenges faculty and students face regarding the process, and several suggestions for possible improvements and changes were made.

3. N. Blank presented recent changes in software used for the distribution of WPI course reports (class climate to Qualtrics) and dashboards (Tableau to Power BI). Qualtrics supplies course report data in a dashboard rather than directly as pdfs. OSCAR (oscar.wpi.edu) was used for many years and will soon autodirect to PowerBI. PowerBI allows a more macro view of data and options to extract useful data. The functions of the dashboards should be similar, just with a different look.

Emails with an instructor-specific link to the dashboard will be emailed each term after courses have closed. The dashboard can be accessed through Canvas or bookmarked in the browser. It allows instructors to view course reports and download pdfs. The recommendation is that faculty download these pdfs for their records. The results are still given in aggregate, as they were in Class Climate, as opposed to the more granular responses for the paper course reports. The Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies is able to provide anonymized individual student responses if faculty make that request. There are options for course report data representations that will be sent to CAP for input.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fiona Zoutendyk