

Committee on Advising and Student Life (CASL) Meeting#7 Minutes

January 29, 2025

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Jim Doyle (Chair), Rudra Kafle (Secretary), Ingrid Matos-Nin, Paul Reilly, Melissa Kagen, Sarah Stanlick, Shawn Gilles, Chaz Aguiar, Natalie Bouffard, Emily Perlow

Call to Order: 10:04 AM

1. The committee approved the minutes of the CASL#6 meeting.
2. The CASL chair announced the date for the Just-in-Time Training for Faculty Academic Advising, which is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12 from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. in Unity Hall 405. He shared a tentative agenda for the training based on the previous years' agenda and acknowledged the logistical and financial support from the WPI Morgan Teaching and Learning Center. The CASL members gave their input for different components to be included in the training. Suggestions included presentations on student perspectives on academic advising; BS/MS advising; advising international students; and providing emotional support to students during advising meetings. He also mentioned that a good number of faculty have already registered for the upcoming training.
3. The CASL Chair and Emily Perlow, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students, reported to the Committee on a meeting Emily had organized with concerned faculty, faculty governance leaders, and the Provost concerning the Student Code of Conduct. At that meeting it was agreed that CASL would meet annually in April with staff from the Dean of Students' office to discuss potential changes to the Code of Conduct. CASL would also incorporate language related to the Code into its charge. Discussion ensued.
4. Melissa Kagen presented a draft of a revised CASL charge intended to more accurately reflect the topics CASL has engaged in over the past few years, particularly issues related to student wellness. The draft will be circulated to Committee members for further comment.
5. The CASL chair reported on recent discussions among the Faculty Committee Chairs about student course reports, in particular that OSCAR, the site where course reports are shared with the WPI community, was not currently being updated. While fixes are in the works, and CAP is addressing the student course reports themselves, there could be a role for CASL in promoting student awareness about OSCAR. The CASL student members expressed their experiences that the course evaluations could be helpful for planning the course registrations and managing their academic terms.
6. Concerns were expressed that there are known forms of bias in student course evaluations that users of OSCAR may not be aware of. Chances that the course evaluations may suffer from biases based on gender, minority, etc.

Adjournment: 11:04 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudra Kafle (Secretary)