

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Committee on Academic Operations  
Annual Report 2019-2020**

Membership: R. Cowlagi (ME), P. Mathisen (CEE), A. Mattson (CBC), K. McAdams (Catalog/Calendar), S. Miles (Registrar's Office), Paul Reilly (Academic Advising), D. Strong (Chair, FBS), L. Titova (PH), A. Trapp (FBS), C. Love (Registrar's Office);  
Ex-Officio: Sarah Miles (Registrar), Art Heinricher (Dean of Undergraduate Studies)

Resource Persons: Paul Reilly, Kristin McAdams

Student Representatives: R. Candy (Fall student rep), Tarang Shah (Spring Student Rep)

The Committee on Academic Operations (CAO) had 24 meetings during which the following business was conducted.

**1. Petitions**

The committee reviewed a total of 33 petitions, including 18 during the academic year and 15 over the summer. The petitions, which include requests for readmission after suspension, waiver of suspension, waiver of probation, and permission to walk in the Commencement Ceremony, are summarized in the following table

Petitions	2019/20 Academic Year			Summer 2020		
	Number	Approved	Denied	Number	Approved	Denied
Walk in Commencement	1	1	0	-	-	-
Waiver of Suspension	3	2	1	4	4	0
Waiver of Probation/standing	3	0	3	2	0	2
Readmission after suspension	7	5	2	6	0	6
PT to FT after return from suspension						
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>

## **2. Discussions and Miscellaneous Items**

Approved the AY18-19 CAO Annual Report

Approved a proposed motion to update to the Commencement Walker Policy, for submission to CAP for further review and consideration. This motion was approved by the faculty on March 19th

Discussed Scheduling challenges around the Fall Career Fair and conflicting Thursday afternoon courses. There was no resolution.

Discussed academic calendars for upcoming years, and distributed to the faculty for comments. Also discussed and provided suggestions in regards to emergency changes to the calendars for A and B Terms in Fall 2020.

Reviewed several CAO templates from the WPI website and, where appropriate, brought up to date by CAO committee members. The templates are posted on the web page (<https://www.wpi.edu/offices/faculty-governance/cao>). (Faculty are always encouraged to follow the CAO template!).

Discussed the considerations regarding a proposal on including pass/fail grades in D and E Terms of 2020 before the proposal was submitted for a full faculty vote. No major concerns were raised.

Discussed information provided on delayed start to the summer schedule, without major concerns.

Discussed reinstatement of the catalog supplement (for the purpose of collecting CAO-approved changes that will be in effect for the Academic Year 2020-2021, but are made after the annual catalog deadline has passed). After consultation with CAP, it was determined that the supplement should again be implemented.

Reviewed and approved the undergraduate catalog supplement. The supplement was posted to the university website (<https://www.wpi.edu/academics/calendar-catalogs>). (Thanks to Kristin McAdams for her efforts in preparing and posting the supplement.)

Concerning upcoming summer courses and other special circumstances anticipated in Summer 2020, discussed and agreed upon that an interim committee should be formed to handle such matters. The committee consisted of CAO Chair Paul Mathisen, Sarah Miles, Art Heinricher, Diane Strong (as needed), and Paul Reilly (as needed).

Discussed and agreed upon a consensus recommendation from CAO to CAP and CGSR to review and consider eliminating the current credit conversion policy that requires that, for example, an undergraduate receive (and pay for) 1/6 unit (or 1.5 credits) per graduate credit when enrolled in a graduate course

### **3. Regular Business**

#### **A. Distribution Requirement Changes Approved by CAO and the WPI Faculty**

**Note – Date of faculty approval is shown in parentheses**

##### **Actuarial Mathematics**

Changed the Actuarial Mathematics B.S. degree distribution requirements (Nov 7<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Civil Engineering**

Changed CE B.S Degree distribution requirements (April 16<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Mechanical Engineering**

Changed the Mechanical Engineering B.S. degree distribution requirements (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Changed the Psychological Science B.S. degree distribution requirements (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

#### **B. Additions or Deletions of Majors, Minors, and Concentrations Approved by CAO (including individually designed minors) and approved by the WPI Faculty?**

##### **Foisie School of Business**

Added a minor in Financial Technology (FinTech) (March 19<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Fire Protection Engineering Department**

Added a minor in Fire Protection Engineering (April 16<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Interactive Media and Game Development (IMGD) Program**

Added an audio and music concentration to the IMGD BA degree (February 13<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Interdisciplinary (Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Social Science and Policy Studies Department, and the Program in Architectural Engineering, and the Office of Sustainability)**

Updated course listings for the minor in Sustainability Engineering (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Social Science and Policy Studies**

Introduced a Concentration entitled *Diversity Science* to the Psychological Science B.S. degree (February 13<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Individually Designed Minors**

Approved five individually designed minors: two in Chemistry and three in Arabic

## **C. Experimental Courses Approved by CAO**

### **Biology and Biotechnology**

BB 353X *Monoclonal Antibodies: The New Biologics*

### **Interdisciplinary and Global Programs**

ID 450X *Value Creation for Engineers and Scientists*

ID 130X *Fellowships Exploration and Application*, which was proposed by the Office of Academic Advising

### **Chemistry and Biochemistry**

CH 352X *Fundamentals of Applying Mathematical Methods in Chemistry and Biochemistry*

### **Humanities and Arts**

WR 250X *Writing in the Life Sciences*

EN 320X *Scenic Design and Fabrication*

WR 251X *Ethics of Science Writing*

TH 110X *Acting: Contemporary Styles* was conditionally approved as an experimental course offering, pending minor revisions.

CN 356X *Business Chinese* - approved to be offered for a third time as an experimental course, and also approved as a permanent course, and for the 2020 – 2021 academic year.

EN 201X *Literary Pandemics*

TH222X *Theatre for Social Distancing*

Added IMGD 304X *Technical Art Pipeline Management*

WR421X *Medical Writing* - Extended the duration of the experimental course for an additional offering beyond the initial two offerings.

### **Mechanical Engineering**

ME 390X *Project-Based Engineering Experimentation*

### **Physics**

PH 443X *Introduction to Quantum Information*

PH 115X *Introductory Physics of Living Systems*

### **Social Science and Policy Studies**

GOV 236X *Women in Politics*

ENV 220X *Building Resilient Communities*

ENV130X *Smart & Sustainable Cities*

#### **D. Course Changes Approved by CAO (and approved by the WPI Faculty)**

**Note – For all of the following motions, the date of faculty approval is shown in parentheses**

##### **Air Force Aerospace studies**

Updated a number of course titles and descriptions for all 16 Air Force and Aerospace Studies Course (AS1001 through 4, AS2001 through 4, AS3001 through 4, and AS4001 through 4) (April 16th)

##### **Biology and Biotechnology**

Changed the number, title and credit equivalence of BB 2916 *Phage Hunters: the Quest* (1/6 unit) to BB 2917 *Hunting for Phage* (1/3 unit) (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Removed BB 3516 *Separation Techniques in Biotechnology* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Removed BB 3519 *Protein Purification* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Biomedical Engineering**

Removed BME 2511 Introduction to Biomechanics and Biotransport (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Removed BME 2811 Introduction to Biomaterials Science and Tissue Engineering (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added BME 2001 Introduction to Biomaterials (Cat. I) (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added BME 2502 Introduction to Biomechanics: Stress Analysis (Cat. I) (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Civil and Environmental Engineering**

Removed CE 3024 *Control Surveying* (March 19th)

Changed the title and course description of CE 3061 *Waste Water Treatment* to CE 3061 *Sustainable Wastewater Engineering: Treatment and Reuse* (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Fire Protection Engineering**

Added new course FP 4000 *Fire Laboratory*. (March 19th)

Added FP 4001 *New Fire, Risk and Sustainability* (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

Changed the title and course description of FP 3070 *Fundamentals Of Fire Safety Analysis* to FP 3070 *Introduction to Fire Protection Engineering* (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Foiese School of Business**

Added OIE 2081 *Introduction to Prescriptive Analytics* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Removed MIS 3740 *Organizational Applications of Telecommunications* and added MIS 37XX *Business Applications of Machine Learning* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

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## Humanities and Arts

Changed the course number for HU 2230 *Russia Ready: Language and Cultural Context* to INTL 2520 (added and removed) (October 3rd)

Changed the course title and course description for HI 1322 *Introduction to European Cultural History* (October 3rd)

Changed the course description for INTL 4100 *Senior Seminar in International and Global Studies* (October 3rd)

Removed HU 2441 *African History and Culture*. (October 3rd)

Removed AB 2542 *The Culture of Arabic-Speaking Countries* (October 3rd)

Removed HI 2325 *Modern France* (October 3rd)

Added INTL 2410 *Modern Africa* (October 3rd)

Added INTL 2420 *Middle East, North Africa and Mediterranean* (October 3rd)

Added INTL 2510 *Contemporary Europe: Union and Disunion* (October 3rd)

Added INTL 1300 *Introduction to Latin America* (October 3rd)

Added INTL 2310 *Modern Latin America* (October 3rd)

Added HI 2930 *Topics in Latin American History* (October 3rd)

Added HU 1222 *Introduction to Medical Humanities* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added HU 2258 *World Cinemas*. (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Changed title and description of MU 2631 from Men's Glee Club to Glee Club (November 7)

Changed title and description of MU 2632 *Alden Voices* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Changed title and description of MU 2638 from Vocal Performance Lab to Chamber Choir (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added ISE 2810 *Listening and Speaking for Non-native Speakers of English* (formerly ISE 281X) (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added ISE 3800 *Loaded Language: Discourse and Power in International English* (formerly ISE 380X) (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added AR / IMGD 3210: *Human Figure in Motion* (also noted under IMGD) (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added AR 2750 *Topics in Studio Art* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added HU 2222 *Medical Humanities* (November 7<sup>th</sup>) (December 12)

Changed the course description of PY 3711 *Topics in Philosophy* (December 12)

Changed the title and description for PY/RE 2731 *Introductory Ethics* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added HI 2913 *Capitalism and Its Discontents* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Removed HI 2910 *American Labor History* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added HI 3344 *Pacific Worlds* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Removed HI 3342 *Topics in Comparative Civilizations* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added EN 3225 *Shakespeare in Performance* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Added INTL 2110 *Global Justice* (November 7<sup>th</sup>)

Changed the title and description of EN 3231 *New England Supernaturalism* to EN3231 *Supernatural Literatures* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added HU 2502 *Global Feminisms* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added HU 2501 *STEM-inism* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Removed HU 1401 *Introduction to Humanities and Arts I* and HU 1402 *Introduction to Humanities and Arts II* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Removed EN 3237 *Moby Dick* and Added EN 3238 *American Authors* (December

12<sup>th</sup>)

Removed EN 1231 *American Literature: Beginnings through Hawthorne*, EN 2231 *American Literature: The Raven, The Whale, and The Woodchuck*, EN 2232 *American Literature: Twain to World War I*, EN 2233 *American Literature: Modernism to the Present*

Added as a replacement EN 2271 *American Literary Histories* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Changed the course description of RE 3721 *Topics in Religion* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added EN 2281 *World Literatures* (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added HU 2910 *Project Center Experiential Learning* (March 19<sup>th</sup>)

### **Added EN 3271 American Literary Topics**

Made minor changes to 12 course descriptions in PY/RE; did not require CAO or Faculty approval

### **Interactive Media and Game Design**

Added IMGD/AR 2740 *3D Environmental Modeling* (formerly IMGD/AR 205X) (December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Added IMGD 4030 *Advanced Topics in Interactive Audio for implementation in 2021-2022*. (February 13<sup>th</sup>)

Added AR / IMGD 3210: *Human Figure in Motion* (also noted under HUA) (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

### **Mechanical engineering**

Removed ME 4718 *Advanced Materials with Aerospace Applications* (August 27<sup>th</sup>)

### **Social Science and Policy Studies**

Added PSY 3400 *Survey Design and Methodology*, subject to changes to the date of the first course offering being beyond A term, 2020. An experimental course offering for A term, 2020 was also approved. (February 13<sup>th</sup>)

Added GOV 2318 *Comparative Healthcare: Policy, Politics, and Advocacy* (March 19<sup>th</sup>)