

Annual Report of the Committee on Academic Policy, 2019 – 2020

Aug 30 2020

The Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) met 18 times during the academic year. Committee members included: A. Hall-Phillips (Secretary A), J. Dudle (Secretary B), G. Heineman (Chair), J. Rulfs, G. Salazar (Secretary D), S. Weekes (Secretary C)

Provost Rep: A. Heinricher

SGA reps: Ariana Cruz-Rivera (AREN '21), Robert Hager (CHE '21), T. Ourdyl (ME '22), M. MacGregor (PH '23), Ryan Candy (MA '21)

Guest: S. Miles

Appointments

- CAP appointed Jeanine Dudle to serve as the CAP representative to the Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC) in academic year 2019-2020
- CAP appointed Jill Rulfs to serve as the CAP representative to the Educational Development Council (EDC) for the spring term in academic year 2019-2020
- CAP appointed Raghvendra Cowlagi (AE) to serve as the CAP representative to the Committee on Information Technology and Policy (CITP) in academic year 2019-2020

Motions Brought to the WPI Faculty for VOTE

- Motion to modify policy allowing Commencement participation for undergraduates who have not yet completed their requirements (February 13th 2020)
- Motion to allow students to be paid for credit-bearing work on sponsored projects (March 23rd 2020)
- Joint COG & CAP motion to provide students with the option to receive Pass/NR grades for undergraduate courses during D-term 2020 (March 27th 2020)
- Joint CGSR & CAP motion to adjust course evaluation reporting for D-term and Spring 2020 (April 16 2020)
- Joint COG & CAP motion to provide students with the option to receive Pass/NR grades for undergraduate students whose PQP/IQP/MQP or HUA Practicum/Inquiry Seminar were affected by the pandemic during D-term 2020 (May 7th 2020)
- Joint COG & CAP motion to provide students with the option to receive Pass/NR grades for undergraduate courses during Summer term 2020 (May 21st 2020)

Additional Committee Activity

- CAP worked with Library Services on the e-projects 2.0 site for digital publication. We worked with WPI's general counsel and Corporate Engagement on the WPI Master Student Sponsored Project Agreement, which provides a template for all IQP and MQP sponsored activity

- At the January 16 2020 faculty meeting, CAP presented on the Online Course Reporting System (OSCAR)
- After WPI essentially closed its campus in D term because of the novel coronavirus, CAP engaged with COG and CGSR frequently to ensure a consistent message to faculty, undergraduate and graduate students
- CAP endorsed a request from registrar (for D term only) to allow students to overload up to 21.75 credits without requiring advisor approval (while strongly encouraging students to seek approval of their advisor)
- While crafting the Pass/NR grading motion, CAP extended discussions with Mass Academy administration (Michael Barney) as well as leaders of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), LTC Jack Skiles for Air Force ROTC and LTC Adam Heppe for Army ROTC

Additional Committee Activity

- CAP recommended that the Office of Undergraduate Studies should become more involved with the operation of MQP sites as the need arises
- Chair Heineman with other chairs of standing faculty governance committees signed a letter to the administration "Faculty Statement in Opposition to PCRIAP" (Process for Creating and Revising Institutional Administrative Policies) dated April 16 2020

Outstanding CAP Issues

- What if IQP/MQP surveys taking place in D-term 2020; should they be suspended? Or perhaps not reported? they do not (yet) appear to even be working
- Guidelines to faculty on excused absences for students
- Financial Implications when undergraduate student taking graduate courses overloads
- WPI Growth Issues (raised in NEASC 2012; 2016)
- Graduate students teaching undergraduate courses
- Evaluating teaching at WPI
- Effect of Strategic Plan and Global School initiatives on academic policy
- Advisor of Record policy for qualifying projects
- Courses with large number of students (different resource issue)
- Support for students with accommodations in upper level courses – refer to CASL?
- Review of WPI's academic programs; assess what constitutes an "active" WPI program

Sincerely,

George Heineman
heineman@wpi.edu
 CAP Chair
 2019 – 2020