

Annual Report of the Committee on Academic Policy, 2018-19

May 31, 2019

The Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) met 19 times during the academic year. Committee members included: G. Heineman (Secretary A), M. Humi, J. Dudle (Secretary C), J. Rulfs (Secretary D), David Olinger (Chair), G. Salazar (Secretary B).

Provost Rep: A. Heinricher. SGA reps: M. Brooks, R. Candy, C. Tocci, M. Sanchez, M. Rossetti.
Guest: S. Miles

APPOINTMENTS

CAP appointed Oleg Pavlov to serve as the CAP representative to the Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC) in academic year 2018-19.

Note: O. Pavlov will be on sabbatical for fall 2019.

CAP appointed Jill Rulfs to serve as the CAP representative to the Educational Development Council (EDC) for the spring term in academic year 2018-19.

CAP appointed George Heineman to serve as the CAP representative on the Workday Student working group.

MOTIONS BROUGHT TO THE WPI FACULTY FOR VOTE

The following motions were approved by the Faculty:

-Motion to change grade replacement policy for repeated undergraduate courses. Approved at the November 8, 2018 faculty meeting.

-Motion to create an undergraduate degree major program in Data Sciences. Approved at the March 14, 2019 faculty meeting.

-Motion to approve a new global and intercultural competency learning outcome #8. Approved at the May 2, 2019 faculty meeting.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

-CAP and CGSR created the ad-hoc Steering Committee for Online Student Course Reports which will guide the implementation of the new fully online course report process. The Steering Committee should report back to CAP/CGSR before the start of C term each year, and submit annual reports after D-term 2019 and D-term 2020, and a final report in D-term 2021. The final report should recommend adjustments to the pilot program in time for implementation in A-term 2021. The subcommittee will be discontinued when its work is complete, or no later than at the end of B-term 2021.

- CAP worked with the Office of Disability Services to revise and endorse an Attendance Flexibility Policy for students with documented disabilities that are chronic and episodic in nature who may require flexibility with course attendance requirements.

- CAP worked with the Office of the Registrar to re-establish the required approval process and form for 4/3 Unit interdisciplinary MQPs for double majors.

-CAP discussed academic policy issues related to the e-Projects 2.0 implementation with B. Brown. These issues included, among others: verification of student major and project advisor appointment when registering for an MQP, registration and approvals for students pursuing double majors, and verification of faculty departmental affiliation. An internal CAP sub-committee of A. Heinricher and J. Rulfs will work with B. Brown on CAP issues related to e-Projects 2.0 implementation.

-CAP reviewed proposal from WPI Systems Thinking Working Group to establish undergraduate certificate programs. CAP advised that such programs can be created in a more timely manner as Minor programs.

-CAP reviewed proposal from IMGD program to eliminate pre-calculus admissions requirement for IMGD B.A. students. Proposal was not approved.

-CAP briefly discussed transfer credit policy issues, financial implications when undergraduate students take graduate courses that result in overloads, class size (large and small) issues, and more support for students with disabilities in upper level courses.

-CAP interacted with CAP Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Sub-Committee through CAP representative Oleg Pavlov.

-CAP met with K. Tichenor and A. Palumbo of the Enrollment & Institutional Strategy Office to discuss enrollment issues related to academic policy.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS FOR CAP FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

-Guidelines for faculty for excused student absences in classes and laboratories.

-Switching from units to credits in undergraduate courses for Workday implementation.

- Exchange rate between graduate and undergraduate credits.

- Transfer credit policy issues.

- Financial implications when undergraduate students take graduate courses that result in overloads.

- SAT optional policy renewal; policy was approved by WPI faculty in April 2012 for a five year period.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. David J. Olinger, ME
CAP Chair, 2018-2019