

Annual Report of the Committee on Academic Policy, 2020 – 2021 May 28, 2021

The Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) met 22 times during the academic year.

Committee Members:

- A. Hall-Phillips – A/B/C/D (Secretary B)
- G. Heineman – A (Chair, A; retained from 2019-2020 academic year as faculty governance elections were delayed due to pandemic)
- J. deWinter – B/C/D (Secretary C; elected in delayed fall 2020 election)
- J. Duddle – A/B/C/D (Chair B/C/D)
- J. Rulfs – A/B/C/D (Secretary A)
- O. Pavlov – B/C/D (Secretary D; elected in delayed fall 2020 election)
- S. Weekes – A/B (departed WPI at end of B term)
- S. Zhou – C/D (elected to complete term originally held by S. Weekes)

Provost Representative: A. Heinricher

SGA Representatives:

- Ryan Candy (MA '21) – A/B/C/D
- Tarik Ourdyl (ME '22) – A
- Lauryn Hubbard (MAC '22) – B
- Samuel Levitan (BIO '24) – C/D

Guest: S. Miles

Appointments

- Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC): A member is appointed annually by the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) from among the Faculty. Oleg Pavlov (SSPS) served as the CAP representative to UOAC for A term 2020. He was then elected to serve on CAP. Subsequently, Khalid Saeed (SSPS) was appointed to serve as the CAP representative to UOAC for B/C/D terms of the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Educational Development Council (EDC): A faculty member is appointed by CAP the Committee on Academic Policy for a three-year term. Jill Rulfs (BBT) continued to serve as the CAP representative to EDC for the 2020-2021 academic year. Her term is 2019-2022.
- Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP): CAP makes a three-year appointee to CITP. Raghendra Cowlagi (AE) continued to serve as the CAP representative to CITP for the 2020-2021 academic year. His term is 2019-2022.

Motions Brought to the WPI Faculty for VOTE

All motions listed below were approved by the full faculty.

- Motion to Adopt Overloading Policy for A-Term 2020, 08-27-2020

- Motion to Revise Distribution Requirements of IMGD Technology (BS) Major, 03-11-2021
- Motion to Revise Distribution Requirements of IMGD (BA) Major, 03-11-2021
- Motion to Adopt and 8-year Pilot of Test-Blind Admissions Policy, 03-11-2021
- Motion to Change the Degree Conferral Date for Students Completing Requirements in a Summer, 03-11-2021
- Motion to Adjust Overload Policy for C and D 2021 Terms, 03-11-2021
- Motion to Revise Language on Overloads in Undergraduate Catalog, 05-06-2021
- Motion to Revise Mathematics and Science Requirement in Undergraduate Catalog, 05-05-2021
- Motion to Motion to Revise Language on Timing of Overloads in Undergraduate Catalog, 05-27-2021

Additional Committee Activity

- IQP/MQP Cover Pages: CAP worked with Anna Gold (University Librarian) to address the issue that students and faculty were not universally including language on the cover page of IQPs and MQPs as indicated in a motion approved by the faculty in 2007. The language is: “This report represents the work of one or more WPI undergraduate students submitted to the faculty as evidence of completion of a degree requirement. WPI routinely publishes these reports on its web site without editorial or peer review.” CAP worked with A. Gold to make revisions to rectify this issue. Specifically, reminders were added to the IQP and MQP workflow in eProjects to alert submitting students and approving advisors of the required language. In addition, in the summer of 2021, a metadata note will be added to all IQPs and MQPs with the language above.
- Academic Year Calendar: CAP participated in discussions of the academic year calendar, which was altered due to the pandemic. CAP made recommendations to CERT, with considerations of logistics, breaks, holidays, and mental health of students and faculty.
- TechFlex: CAP discussed various aspects of TechFlex, and what teaching modes may persist in the future academic years. No recommendations or decisions were made, as campus plans for 2021-2022 were unknown at the time of discussions.
- Dean’s List: Dean Heinricher provided data on the number of students on the Dean’s List. CAP discussed the topics of grade inflation, grades in courses, and grades in projects. No specific actions were taken.
- Online Proctoring Services: CAP received a draft statement from CITP titled “On the Use of Online Proctoring Services”. CAP worked jointly with CITP to revise the statement and in particular to ensure the statement was not recommending any specific academic policies regarding assessment in courses.
- Credit Conversion Policy: CAP discussed a joint CAP/CGSR Motion to Remove the Credit Conversion Policy. According to existing policy, which was adopted in 2010, undergraduates get more credit for graduate courses and graduate students get less credit for undergraduate courses. Feedback was requested from multiple persons/offices, and discussions on the credit conversion policy will continue in 2021-2022.

Committee Elections for 2021-2022 Academic Year

- J. Dudle and J. Rulfs completed their terms on CAP as of May 2021

- Via campus wide elections, the following members will be joining CAP in Fall 2021:
 - Berk Calli (RBE)
 - Brigitte Servatius (MA)
- Chair: Oleg Pavlov was elected to serve as Chair of CAP in the 2021-2022 academic year

Future Discussions for 2021-2022 Academic Year

Potential topics for future discussion include the following items, which will be prioritized by CAP at the first meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year:

- **A term 2021** – Discuss data collection and assessment needs for 8-year test-blind admissions policy with Andrew Palumbo (Assistant VP for EM & Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid) and IR. Pilot approved March 11, 2021.
- **A term 2021** – Appointments to other committees. The 2020-2021 appointments were as follows:
 - Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC): A member is appointed annually by the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) from among the Faculty. Oleg Pavlov (SSPS) served as the CAP representative to UOAC for A term 2020. He was then elected to serve on CAP. Subsequently, Khalid Saeed (SSPS) was appointed to serve as the CAP representative to UOAC for B/C/D terms of the 2020-2021 academic year.
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- Credit Conversion Policy –Sarah Miles
- Dean’s List and Graduation Honors – discussion started 02/01/2021 regarding rise in number of students on Dean’s List and graduating with honors
- Project Issues with regard to Embargoes and Redactions – follow up with Anna Gold
- IQP and MQP student evaluation survey data collected in eProjects but not available for faculty or students to review/download – follow up with Raj in IR
- Participation in on-line student course reports/evaluations (request from Professor Rissmiller), and ways to improve participation
- Interdisciplinary MQPs (request from Professor Hall-Phillips) – discussion on whether interdisciplinary MQPs are becoming more like IQPs

Submitted by
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