

Committee on Academic Policy
Meeting Minutes
Monday, 03-8-2021, 1:00 – 1:50 pm
Meeting #15
Meeting held over Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In Attendance: J. Dudle (Chair), A. Heinricher (Provost's office), A. Hall-Phillips, J. Rulfs, S. Zhou, J. deWinter (Secretary), O. Pavlov, Ryan Candy MA '21, Sam Levitan '24, S. Miles (Registrar)

1. CAP approved minutes for meeting #14.
2. CAP continued its earlier discussion of the overloading approval process during student registrations for IQPs and MQPs. Currently, if there is an overload, a request is sent to the student's Academic Advisor for approval. The Project Advisor is not involved in the approval of the overload. This workflow is replicated in the new eProjects 2.0 design. The Registrar brought to CAP's attention that: (1) the approvals by Academic Advisors are not always provided in a timely manner and (2) the Project Advisor and/or student may be in a better position to determine if overloading should be approved based on project demands and the combination of academic and non-academic demands on a student. CAP noted that project and course overloading appears in several sections of the WPI undergraduate catalog. The committee will continue its discussion of the overloading approval process.
3. At the request of a faculty member, CAP discussed the omission of Academic Advising Day from the Spring 2021 calendar. The calendar is prepared by the Calendar Committee, which is chaired by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. CAP has charged the Chair of CAP to contact the Calendar Committee with a recommendation that the Calendar Committee adds a CAP member, as well as members representing CAO and CGSR. This will involve faculty governance more directly in calendar discussions which can affect academic policy and operations at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
4. CAP discussed updating the "The Mathematics and Science Requirement" because the catalog description of the requirement is out of date (p. 7 of the UG catalog for AY 2020-21). The committee tasked three of its members with reviewing the language of the requirement and preparing a new wording that would eliminate the need for annual modifications.
5. CAP discussed the hybrid course format that is currently used within the TechFlex framework. CAP noted that a clear definition of the format and how such courses are offered is needed if hybrid courses are still offered beyond the pandemic. Based on time constraints, this discussion will continue at the next meeting.
6. Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Oleg Pavlov