

Committee on Academic Policy

Meeting Minutes

Monday, 04-26-2021

Meeting #20

Meeting held over Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In Attendance: Jeanine Duple (Chair), Art Heinricher (Provost's office), Adrienne Hall-Phillips, Jill Rulfs, Jennifer deWinter, Susan Zhou, Oleg Pavlov (Secretary), Ryan Candy MA '21, Sam Levitan '24, Erin Bell (guest, DIGS), Kent Rissmiller (guest, DIGS)

1. Meeting started at 2:00 pm.
2. CAP reviewed and approved with minor revisions minutes for Meeting #19 that was held on 4/05/21.
3. CAP discussed and approved a new disclaimer that will be added to metadata web pages for all IQPs and MQPs, including the archived ones. The disclaimer states that the reports are prepared by undergraduate students as part of their degree requirements and do not undergo editorial or peer reviews. The WPI report submission system will also remind students to add the disclaimer to their reports, and remind faculty to confirm that the disclaimer has been added. The disclaimer was prepared by the WPI library in collaboration with CAP.
4. As part of the continued discussion on overloading, CAP welcomed guests Kent Rissmiller (Dean, Ad Interim – The Global School) and Erin Bell (Interim Director, Global Experience Office). The guests informed the committee that project overloading has become a significant issue during the pandemic since numerous online courses are now available. The CAP and the guests recognized the delicate balance between the desire to allow students to make their own academic decisions and the potential negative impact that overloading might have on project quality, project teammates and project sponsors. Since it is likely that online courses will be available even beyond the pandemic, the committee and the guests agreed that the project overload policy needs to be updated to reflect the new academic reality. A proposed motion to revise the catalog language on overloading was reviewed. CAP voted to approve two parts of the motion (regarding overloading of classes and on-campus projects), and to vote by email on the third part of the motion (regarding one-term, off-campus projects) once the language was revised per discussions.
5. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Oleg Pavlov