

Minutes of FAP Meeting #7 AY2020-21

September 14, 2020

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Meeting Held Electronically via ZOOM

Members in Attendance: Nancy Burnham (Chair), Joe Fehribach (FBC Chair), George Pins (RPC Representative), Mike Radzicki (Secretary), Jeff Solomon (Executive Vice President/CFO), Kris Sullivan (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs)

Guests: Dean Terri Camesano, and WPI Executive Director of Online and Professional Education Stacy Chiaramonte, Provost Wole Soboyejo

Call to Order. Chair Burnham called the 7th FAP meeting of the year to order at 3:00 PM.

1) **The State of WPI's Strategy for On-Line Education.** Chair Burnham welcomed Dean Terri Camesano, WPI Executive Director of Online and Professional Education Stacy Chiaramonte, and Provost Wole Soboyejo to FAP's 7th meeting of the year. A presentation and discussion of the state of WPI's strategy of on-line education followed and the following points were made.

- WPI is pursuing a three-prong on-line strategy involving graduate programs, distinctive undergraduate programs, and digital modules. The third category is directed at helping people develop skills in modules for which they will receive a badge or stackable credential that can be listed on their resumes and LinkedIn profiles.
- WPI is partnering with two firms who have expertise in digital marketing and student recruiting. Although there is no upfront cost to WPI, the firms will share tuition revenue with the Institute.
- WPI will use "Catalog" as a front end to the Canvas platform to help manage its on-line offerings.
- It is anticipated that the first students will enroll in WPI's new on-line programs in the fall of 2021.
- An important aspect of WPI's on-line strategy is offering "WPI for Life" to its 40,000 alumni in a "just in time knowledge" format.
- WPI is aware of the need to offer programs in "niches" in which the university has a comparative advantage, rather than in general "commoditized areas."
- The presenters indicated that the pandemic has accelerated the need for WPI to develop an excellent undergraduate on-line presence. A spirited discussion ensued.

2) **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael J. Radzicki

Secretary