

UOAC Minutes 11/01/2010

The Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee held its sixth meeting of the year at 2:05 pm Monday, November 1, 2010 in the Morgan Room of the Campus Center.

Present: Peter Christopher, Chrys Demetry, Mustapha Fofana, Peter Hansen, Art Heinricher, Emanuel Jimenez, Lance Schachterle

1. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of October 4, 2010.
2. The Committee elected officers: Lance Schachterle was elected chair for the remainder of the 2010-2011 academic year. Peter Hansen was elected Secretary for term B10.
3. The Committee continued its discussion of the EBI surveys responses of WPI senior engineering majors regarding questions dealing with ethics.
4. The Committee heard reports from members about the requirements/expectations for ethics in engineering programs at other institutions to which WPI compares itself in the EBI survey. MIT did not have a formal requirement but some senior capstone and design components played this role. At Carnegie Mellon and Drexel, all engineering departments mentioned ethics in the context of ABET accreditation but only one department at each school explicitly made ethics a part of the senior capstone design requirement. Northeastern had a five semester hour requirement in Professional Development for engineering majors which was satisfied by a one credit course in Professional Issues in Engineering at the junior level as well as certain courses in each major which were designated as having a portion of course credit that applied towards this requirement. Boston University required all engineering students to take two first-year courses: a fall-term, 0 credit Freshman Advising Seminar (similar to the Insight Program) which discussed ethics and engineering in the global age, as well as a 4 credit course on introduction to Engineering, some sections of which explicitly included an ethics exam.
5. The Committee discussed avenues for further discussion of ethics based on NSSE survey results, MQP learning outcomes, and sharing information with Deans.
6. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Hansen, Secretary