

## Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee Minutes #11

Wednesday, February 20th, 2013

Taylor Room, Campus Center

Present: Peter Hansen (Chair), Art Heinricher (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Chrysanthe Demetry (Morgan Teaching & Learning Center), Satya Shivkumar, Tanja Dominko (Secretary)

Chair Peter Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

### 1. Acceptance of the Minutes for Meeting #10

Draft minutes of the meeting #10 were discussed and deferred until the next meeting.

### 2. WPI Plan Alumni survey report

The committee discussed a report prepared by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, entitled “Survey Findings: The Impact of the WPI Plan on Alumni of Worcester Polytechnic Institute” (July, 2012). The report presents and analyzes data collected from about 2,500 alumni, who graduated between 1974 and 2011. “The purpose of the survey was to gather information on the impact that formal project work at WPI had on alumni after they have completed their undergraduate studies at WPI.” The Executive Summary of the Survey is attached (Attachment 1).

The survey identified project work as a significant component of the respondent’s undergraduate education and was viewed differently depending on gender, participation in an on- or off-campus projects and the respondent’s field of studies (engineering vs. non-engineering respondents). Overall, the survey identifies very important benefits of WPI’s project based work, especially in shaping their personal character and in contributing to their professional success.

The committee noted that the survey identified several outcomes that our current surveys do not solicit specifically, and may need to be considered in evaluation of WPI Outcomes 8 and 9. In other words, there are a number of outcomes that WPI’s projects are accomplishing well and we need to try to capture these identified benefits in our own survey instruments. The committee felt that it would be beneficial to employ the Alumni Survey Instrument in the future and discussed possible frequency and specific alumni cohort selection for the administration of the survey. The current survey contains 39 questions, and some of them could be replaced by questions specific to outcomes and

program objectives of individual departments. To make this survey broadly useful, its results will need to be available and accessible by all the departments.

The committee will continue to propose revisions to the current assessment plan (the “matrix”) in order to design a document that will be of utmost value for assessment of the institutional outcomes.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanja Dominko, Secretary