

Minutes of UOAC Meeting #18 on February 18, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am in the Beckett Conference Room. In attendance: A. Heinricher, K. Rissmiller (chair), L. Mathews, E. Desjardins, C. Demetry, H. Ault (scribe)
2. Minutes from meeting #17 were approved with minor edits.
3. Following an apathetic response to last week's expectorant video, the committee elected to forgo video viewing this week. (Prof. Demetry provided alternative Goat entertainment via email later in the day.)
4. Advisor Evaluation of Projects:
 - a. Chair Rissmiller reported that the system is live for continued pilot testing in C term.
 - b. Both primary and co-advisors are able to complete the survey; however, to avoid duplication of data, only one response will be counted for each student. Changes in coding to allow responses from only the advisor of record will be recommended for the implementation phase.
 - c. Prof. Demetry reported that the program-specific questions for MQPs may not be ready for implementation in C term. It is important to make these questions available for D term, as the majority of MQPs will be completed in D term and the data would be very useful for upcoming ABET program reviews.
 - d. The committee discussed the use of 3-point vs. 4-point scales for rating student outcomes. The current version of the survey utilizes a 3-point scale; however, interviews with faculty who completed the survey in B term suggest that there may be differences in interpretation of rating system. Is "below expectations" to be interpreted as marginally acceptable or unacceptable? If acceptable, then the current ranking system has no option for unacceptable work towards the individual learning objectives. Faculty completing the survey may be confused by the N/A option, which is intended to capture "Not Applicable" rather than "Not Acceptable". A 4-point scale would align better with our grading system (A, B, C, NR). The chair will investigate whether a change to a 4-point system would require faculty approval, and the effort required to implement such a change. The pilot will continue unchanged for C term and additional interviews with participating faculty will be conducted next term.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.