

Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee Minutes #6, Monday, December 10, 2012, Taylor Room, Campus Center

Present: Peter Hansen (Chair), Art Heinricher, Jianyu Liang (Secretary), Chrysanthe Demetry (Morgan Teaching & Learning Center), Tanja Dominko (CAP), Satya Shivkumar

Chair Peter Hansen called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes for meeting #5 on 12/03/2012

Minor changes were made to the minutes of the meeting on 12/03/2012 and it was approved.

2. Announcements

Chair Hansen announced that Nancy Bezies, representative of Student Government Association will be rotating off in C term. The committee thanked Nancy for her service in the past year.

3. MQP as a Capstone

After earlier minutes were distributed, the committee received a comment from a faculty member noting that capstone was defined by ABET in a particular way. The MQP serves as a capstone experience for every major at WPI in a more general sense, and this is not to suggest that every MQP satisfies ABET's definition of a capstone design.

4. Discussion of MQP Reviews

a) The committee studied the new WPI Student Report on MQP Learning and Advising and identified the learning outcomes in the Assessment Plan for Institutional Learning Outcomes (the Matrix) that can be informed by new data from this form. Many questions on the new survey were designed to serve as indicators for particular outcomes. There was brief discussion of the use of other surveys. The committee identified the relevant outcomes for questions from the new MQP Student Report.

b) The committee discussed the benefits, limits and feasibility of MQP advisor evaluation and the peer evaluation of MQP reports. The peer evaluation of MQPs typically takes place during the summer when a faculty panel in a department reads some or all of the projects completed in that program. That exercise indicates that some learning outcomes are not well documented in the final written report. It was pointed out that the advisor for each MQP could assess these learning outcomes in a survey completed at the conclusion of a project. This might provide useful evidence for certain outcomes.

c) The committee briefly discussed the focus of its work in C term and decided to study both MQP and IQP student evaluations. With the first set of MQP evaluation data available then, it is expected that more insights will be gained through analysis of the data.

The committee will meet again in C term.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jianyu Liang, secretary
Mechanical Engineering