

UOAC Minutes 9/13/10

The Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee held its second meeting of the year at 2:00 pm Monday, September 13, 2010 in the Peterson Room of the Campus Center.

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

1. The Committee identified changes in academic programs that have occurred at WPI since the last NEASC visit of 2001. These include the introduction of the following: minor programs, new concentrations for majors, the BSMS program, double majors, the Great Problems Seminar, the Humanities Seminar, and changes in distribution requirements. The question of assessing the impact of these changes was raised. For example, how many students choose to do a minor, and what is their perception, as alumni, of the value of the experience? Professor Schachterle and Dean Heinricher will be asking departments to help identify changes and new programs and any corresponding assessments.
2. Dean Heinricher summarized the results of the recently released 2010 EBI survey. This survey is given annually to all WPI graduating seniors in engineering and computer science, and the responses are compared to those of other institutions. Professor Schachterle asked the Committee to address those areas where the responses from our graduates have been less favorable than those of some of our peer institutions. These include our respondents' ratings of the effectiveness of teaching in calculus and in differential equations, their assessment of the quality of their fellow students, and their perception of a lack in teaching of ethical issues. Concerning the latter, the Chair assigned each UOAC member to investigate one of six peer institutions to see what they offer in terms of ethics courses or training.
3. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Christopher, Secretary