

Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee Minutes #9, Wednesday, February 6th, 2013, Taylor Room, Campus Center

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

Chair Peter Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes for Meeting #8

Minutes of the meeting #8 held on January 30th, 2013 were accepted as distributed.

2. Simplified Assessment plan and NSSE Questions

The committee is continuing to review and evaluate a number of student and program survey instruments, both national (i.e. NSSE, EBI), and WPI's own (IQP and MQP) to identify questions that could either replace or complement existing questions in our Assessment Plan for Institutional Learning Outcomes (the Matrix).

Dean Heinricher presented an overview of the NSSE survey instrument that has recently been modified. As assessment of outcomes at WPI relies in part on questions included in NSSE, the assessment matrix will have to be modified accordingly. For example, in the new NSSE, some questions have been removed, some added, and some are mapped to different outcomes. Questions are now being grouped into "Engagement Themes" and summarized with a single overall value, which will require the use of new benchmarks. A new NSSE Section #3 uses questions pertaining to instructor effectiveness and will enable us to compare our Course Evaluation data with national instructor effectiveness. Dean Heinricher and Prof. Shivkumar will work on identifying new NSSE content that should be included in our assessment matrix.

The committee discussed and recommended that WPI engage in NSSE and Association of Independent Technological Universities (AITU) surveys in the Spring 2013 in addition to the scheduled participation in 2015. This will give WPI the opportunity to collect data in preparation for the ABET accreditation scheduled for 2014.

3. The committee was presented with a request by CAP to review IQP surveys for on- and off-campus projects.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanja Dominko, Secretary