

UNDERGRADUATE OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (UOAC)

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Minutes of 2017-18 meeting #12, February 1, 2018

Present: L. Mathews (chair), D. Samson (secretary), J. deWinter, C. Demetry, R. Malick, A. Heinricher (Provost's Office), G. Cataldo '20 (SGA), P. St. Louis (Engineering, permanent visitor),

The meeting came to order at 12:06.

The minutes of meeting #11 were approved with corrections.

L. Mathews reported that Professor Lance Schachterle, who drafted much of the language about the humanities that was added to the WPI Plan, will attend the UOAC's next meeting on February 8. After discussion, the committee decided that Prof. Schachterle will be invited to explain the Department of Humanities and Arts's contribution to WPI's Undergraduate Outcomes, and comment on how UOAC might be able to help the department complete its initiatives. Kristin Boudreau, Head of the Department of Humanities and Arts, will attend UOAC's final meeting of the current term.

UOAC members discussed how the committee might best approach revisions to or replacements for WPI Undergraduate Learning Outcomes #9, on ethics, and #10, on lifelong learning. Revision can take advantage of the more complex definitions of professional ethical standards that have been considered by WPI departments and by educational and accrediting agencies. In addition, WPI Deans and the Project Advisor Surveys can provide additional data that can be used to create more informative assessments of Outcomes #9 and 10. J. deWinter and G. Cataldo recommended collecting information from alumni on the issue as well.

L. Mathews opened discussion of an email message from P. Mathisen, Associate Professor in the CEE Department and director of sustainability, which urged that UOAC work to make sustainability part of WPI's learning outcomes. She observed that while UOAC does not have the time or resources to create new assessment mechanisms for this, we should remain mindful of the issue and take advantage of any opportunity to move forward with it. The committee agreed.

L. Mathews also reported that in its meeting on January 29, CAP approved the motion that UOAC prepared for CAP to present to the faculty. CAP made one minor alteration to the text.

In conversation as the meeting adjourned, C. Demetry and P. St. Louis discussed the upcoming ABET retreat on March 7 and decided that Demetry will attend it.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Samson, secretary