

## UNDERGRADUATE OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (UOAC)

### WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Minutes of 2017-18 meeting #8, December 1 2017

Present: L. Mathews (chair), D. Samson (secretary), A. Heinricher (Provost's Office), G. Cataldo '20 (SGA), O. Pavlov, J. deWinter, A. Donta-Venman, R. Malick.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05.

The minutes of meetings #6 and 7 were presented and approved.

UOAC members discussed how best to prepare the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP, represented on UOAC by Pavlov) to present UOAC and GMCLOT's initiatives to the faculty. Members were particularly concerned with faculty presentation of language to replace the institute's Undergraduate Learning Objective #8, "Graduates will be aware of how their decisions affect and are affected by other individuals separated by time, space and culture." When this item is brought forward in a faculty meeting, UOAC agreed, the faculty will be told that other objectives will also come under revision in the future, although they will not be subject to discussion at present. L. Mathews stated that she will draft a motion for CAP to put forward on replacing outcome 8, for discussion at UOAC's next meeting on December 8.

UOAC also discussed moving forward before the faculty (through CAP) toward new means of assessment. Language used (or formerly used) by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and by departments reporting to ABET offer useful models. Members went on to discuss whether assessment mechanisms should be the concern of the university at large or housed in departments and programs. J. deWinter suggested that when the faculty is presented with a motion to approve an assessment mechanism, it should be informed that CAP and UOAC is putting forward a simple assessment model, but that there are other, potentially more precise ones with which the institute could experiment. P. St. Louis will communicate with WPI's Research Office for information on assessment strategies used by ABET and by departments and programs within WPI.

UOAC also discussed how its research and goals might be made useful to the Department of Humanities and Arts and vice versa. The committee agrees that HUA's outcome assessment mechanisms could be profitably further developed for departmental use and shared with the university. J. deWinter volunteered to collect a sample of the department's assessment materials for discussion in one of UOAC's C term meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54. Respectfully submitted, D. Samson, secretary