

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC)
Minutes

Date: September 23, 2020

Location: Zoom

Present: Jianyu Liang (Chair, ME), Qi Wen (Physics), Art Heinricher (Provost representative), Chrys Demetry (Morgan Center), John Bergendahl (CEE), Oleg Pavlov (CAP rep, SSPS), Emily Pimentel (student rep), Rajiv Malhotra (Institutional Research)

Meeting started at 2:00 pm.

1. The committee welcomed Emily Pimentel, who joined UOAC as an SGA representative. She is a first-year undergraduate student majoring in biochemistry.
2. The minutes of the Sept. 4, 2020 meeting were approved with minor revisions.
3. UOAC discussed the preparation of a self-study report by WPI for the accreditation agency NECHE:
 - a. Dean Heinricher informed UOAC that WPI must submit the self-study report to NECHE in the spring of 2021. It is part of the accreditation process.
 - b. The self-study is being prepared by a university-wide working group, which is not part of UOAC. However, UOAC can assist the working group.
 - c. The Institutional Research Office will assist in the preparation of the self-study.
 - d. Within the scope of the self-study, UOAC will review WPI's ethics learning outcome for all undergraduates, which is stated as follows: *Graduates of WPI will be aware of personal, societal, and professional ethical standards*. In recent years UOAC has discussed the weaknesses of this outcome: awareness is not measurable, and we want students to be more than aware. Most engineering degree programs have stated an ethics outcome at a higher level in order to meet the expectations of ABET. NECHE does not specify how any outcomes should be assessed. Our current assessment plan for the ethics outcome relies on NSSE and EBI data, so UOAC will compile and analyze the most recent data sets. UOAC will also review ethics outcomes at other institutions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Oleg Pavlov
Secretary