

DRAFT

Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee Annual Report 2017-18

The committee met nineteen times during the 2017-18 academic year. Its members were faculty members L. Mathews (chair B-D terms), C. Demetry (Morgan Teaching and Learning Center), R. Mallick, J. deWinter (chair during A term), D. Samson (secretary), and O. Pavlov (who also served as liaison to CAP); G. Cataldo '20 (representing SGA); A. Heinricher (Provost's Office); A. Donta-Venman (Institutional Research); and Pam St. Louis (Permanent Visitor)

During the academic year, the committee worked on a number of priorities, including:

1. Developing a university-wide learning outcome on global and intercultural competency

UOAC invested much of its time in AY17-18 in developing a motion to replace a current learning outcome (#8: Graduates of WPI will be aware of how their decisions affect and are affected by other individuals separated by time, space, and culture) with a new learning outcome addressing global and intercultural competency. To develop this motion, UOAC met multiple times with representatives of the Global and Multicultural Learning Outcome Task Force (GMCLOT), which had worked over the summer of 2017 to draft language for such a learning outcome, within a set of guidelines established by UOAC. In consultation with GMCLOT and with guidance from their report, UOAC developed a draft motion which was approved by the Committee on Academic Policy. UOAC presented the draft learning outcome to the faculty at its February meeting for discussion only and solicited feedback. The motion was revised and approved again by CAP, and will be presented for a vote at a fall faculty meeting.

2. Review of progress by HUA department to assess undergraduate HUA requirement.

Assessment of the undergraduate HUA requirement presents particular challenges because the requirement is met in a wide range of disciplines and using a variety of pedagogical approaches. UOAC sought to inform itself on the HUA department's ongoing progress in developing assessment strategies for this requirement by meeting separately with Prof. Lance Schachterle to discuss the history and development of the HUA requirement under the WPI Plan, and with Prof. Kris Boudreaux (head, HUA department) to discuss the department's current and ongoing exploration of assessment methods. UOAC will continue to engage with the HUA department on this issue to determine how it can be of assistance as the department undertakes this challenge.

3. Advisor Assessment in MQPs and PQPs

In looking at data to assess the Undergraduate Learning Outcomes, UOAC noted that there is a low participation rate from advisors for MQP and IQPs completed. Student participation is high because students are not able to generate an eCDR without completing a post-project survey. Faculty, on the other hand, must locate this feedback portal separately in the eProjects site. UOAC is following up to ask that this process is address in future updates.

4. Participation in committee meetings

UOAC welcomed Pam St. Louis, Director of Operations for Engineering, as a regular non-voting guest at UOAC meetings. St. Louis contributed her expertise developed through countless hours spent in preparation for ABET accreditation procedures.

5. Direction for AY18-19

In spring 18, UOAC worked to develop near-term priorities, which will guide the committee's work in AY18-19. Re-examination of the language of all Undergraduate Outcomes was considered as a primary item of business, but the committee ultimately decided to use Plan data and other sources of information, such as alumni surveys, toward deep assessment of Outcome #9 (Graduates of WPI will be aware of personal, societal, and professional ethical standards) according to the data sources identified in the Assessment Plan for Undergraduate Learning Outcomes, which was approved by the faculty in 2004. In spring 18, UOAC examined data from departmental summer MQP reviews and IGSD summer IQP reviews, and will continue to consider data pertaining to this learning outcome in AY18-19.

Respectfully submitted, D. Samson, secretary