

Undergraduate Outcomes and Assessment Committee Annual Report 2019-2020

Committee Members: Rajib Mallick (Chair), Qi Wen (Secretary), Jeanine Dudle (Morgan Center for Teaching and Learning representative), Matt Cannata (SGA Representative), Art Heinricher (Provost's Office), Jianyu Liang, John Bergendahl, Rajiv Malhotra (Institutional Research), Oleg Pavlov (CAP representative)

In AY 2019-2020, the Undergraduate Outcomes and Assessment Committee worked on the following tasks:

1. **The ethics outcomes and assessment plan, in response to the recent changes in ABET criteria.** UOAC reviewed the university-level ethics outcomes assessment plan and reached out to the Provost's Office and the Office of Institutional Research to identify sources of data for ethics assessment. The alumni survey was identified as a possible data source. The current alumni surveys were sent to alumni five or more years after their graduation, and data can only provide indirect measurements. UOAC discussed the need to develop direct measurements and a process of periodic surveys (1 year, 5 years, or longer, after graduation). UOAC worked with Dean Art Heinricher to schedule a series of presentations by faculty members at WPI who have successfully integrated ethics into their curriculum. Due to the pandemic, these presentations could not be held.
2. **Global competency outcome assessment plan.** A new global and intercultural competency learning outcome was approved at the May 2, 2019 faculty meeting and an assessment plan needs to be created. UOAC studied the previous outcomes and assessment plans to identify tools and data that can be incorporated in the assessment plan to address the new global outcome. Professor Aaron Sakulich (Chair of the Global and Multicultural Competency Learning Outcome Taskforce) and Professor Scott Justo (IGSD) were invited to join the discussions. UOAC discussed modifying the IQP survey, the MQP survey, and the alumni survey, as well as discussed implementing e-portfolios to establish a proper and practical method for assessment of the new global competency outcome. Adding questions that address the global competency outcome to the end-of-term survey questionnaire of relevant courses was also considered.
3. **Outcomes assessment for graduate courses, as required by NECHE.** UOAC reached out to CGSR for assistance in developing outcome assessment plans for the graduate curriculum and will continue the discussion with CGSR.
4. **Providing feedback to the alumni survey.** UOAC studied the alumni survey shared by the Office of Institutional Research and provided feedback. The committee commented that the current version is lengthy and that there is an opportunity to make it both more relevant and shorter. A lot of questions came out of the prior use of the Donahue study. The new alumni survey should not repeat the Donahue study. The committee discussed revisions to the questions, so that they would align better with WPI's learning outcomes and enable WPI to conduct surveys more frequently. UOAC also identified important questions that have particular focus on PBL. Changes were made to future alumni surveys based on UOAC feedback.
5. **Proposal for a university-wide learning outcome on sustainability.** Professor Paul Mathisen was invited to the discussions concerning the requirement of sustainability as an outcome in the

undergraduate curriculum, which was mandated by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher education. UOAC concluded that, rather than adding a new outcome, the best option would be to update an existing one. Updating the outcome on Ethics was considered as one option by UOAC.

6. UOAC also discussed the need to formalize the procedure for suggesting new or changing existing university-wide learning outcomes.