Maintaining Balance FAQs

Where can I find out about physical fitness opportunities?
Check the Employee Wellness Offerings website (wpi.edu/offices/hr/wellness.html), and watch for email from Human Resources. HR distributes information about noontime yoga or aerobics classes, basketball and running groups, Weight Watchers, a parenting exchange group, and more. The WPI Sports & Recreation Center is available at no cost to employees. Discounted memberships are also available to WPI employees at Worcester Fitness. See also Prof. Jeanine Skorinko’s Worcester/WPI Fitness Guide for details and insider’s tips later in this section.

What is available at WPI’s Sports & Recreation Center and how can I make use of it?
This facility includes an aquatic center, dance studio, fitness center (cardio equipment and weights), basketball, racquetball, and squash courts, and an indoor track. WPI community members must submit a membership application and liability waiver before using the facilities. All information and hours of operation can be found at wp.wpi.edu/reccenter.

What is there to do in and around Worcester?
The City of Worcester maintains a website (www.worcestermass.org) that includes listings of restaurants and coffee houses, places of worship, museums & galleries, music & theatre events, a cultural calendar that includes events throughout Central Massachusetts, and more.

Worcester Magazine is a free, independent weekly newspaper and events calendar that includes reviews, local happenings, and insight into local politics. You can usually find stacks in the Rubin Campus Center.

Is there a way to get recommendations for things like doctors, day care, and other service providers?
potpourri@wpi.edu is a distribution list for messages that may be of interest to campus employees, but aren’t directly related to our work. Messages may include items for sale or items wanted; inquiry or availability of rental housing or homes for sale; tickets for sporting and other entertainment events; solicitation of recommendations for doctors, dentists, child care providers, roofers, plumbers, house painters, etc.

An incomplete but often helpful archive of previous potpourri summaries of recommended service providers can be found at wiki.wpi.edu/potpourri/.

I’m getting flooded by email—how do I get off the potpourri list?
If you want to opt out of receiving potpourri messages, you can do so at www.wpi.edu/+standinglist.

An alternative is to set up a filter in your email system to direct potpourri messages to a separate folder, if you want to skim them occasionally.

What are WPI’s policies for parental leave and stopping the tenure clock?
WPI’s employee maternity and adoption leave policy was updated to an inclusive parental leave policy in 2014-15. This and other benefits policies can be found on the HR website (wpi.edu/offices/hr/benefits-faculty.html). Faculty members will also be granted a stoppage
in their tenure clock if they notify the Provost about the arrival of a child. The details of this policy are described in Part 2, Section 1 (Policies Regarding the Status of Faculty) of the Faculty Handbook, which is linked at the bottom of the faculty governance website: wpi.edu/Campus/Faculty/. Finally, beyond the normal employee parental leave, faculty members with particular types of appointments can negotiate further full-time or part-time leave for child rearing or other personal or family circumstances.