

Committee on Academic Operations Meeting Minutes

23rd CAO meeting of 2015-2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 in Salisbury Labs 124

Chair: Stephan Sturm (MA)

Secretary: VJ Manzo (HUA)

In Attendance:

William Clark (CHE), Mark Claypool (CS), VJ Manzo (HUA), Kristin McAdams (Administrator of Academic Programs), Paul Reilly (Academic Advising), Stephan Sturm (MA), Justin Wang (BUS), Kris Wobbe (Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies)

Called to order at 4:03pm

Minutes #22 approved with changes

Old Business:

1. Statement of Philosophy Request to CAP (Wobbe/Manzo)

- CAO will add a reference to the narrative about the WPI plan in the Faculty Handbook
- CAO will make a reference to CAO's charge as provided in the Faculty Handbook
- Approved
- Submitted to CAP

New Business:

1. Motion from BUS to Drop Courses ETR 3910 and ETR 3920 (Wang)

- Approved

2. Motion from BUS to add ETR 3915 as permanent course (Wang)

- CAO requests that the background be put in the standard form
- CAO asks that they originator add some concepts and topics to the Recommended Background section, and consider changing to Suggested Background

- Please clarify that the anticipated instructor will be teaching this course as part of the professor's normal teaching load
- Conditionally approved

3. Motion from BUS to add ETR 2900 as permanent course (Wang)

- CAO noticed that the hours students spent on the experimental version of the course (ETR290X) outside of the classroom, according to the course evaluations, seemed low. CAO encourages the instructor to identify ways to increase the number of hours spent on this course outside of the classroom. As stated in the undergraduate catalog, WPI courses usually carry credit of 1/3 unit. This level of activity suggests at least 15-17 hours of work per week, including work outside the classroom, as well as scheduled class and laboratory time.
- CAO asks that they originator add some concepts and topics to the Recommended Background and consider changing to Suggested Background
- Please clarify that the anticipated instructor will be teaching this course as part of the professor's normal teaching load
- Conditionally approved

4. Motion from BUS to rename major from MG to BUS (Wang)

- Approved

5. Motion from BUS to rename major from MIS to IT or ITS (Wang)

- Only ITS available as IT was previously used by Italian
- CAO discussed the motion and notes that same motion has been submitted recently and has been rejected by CAO. Then the meaning of "information technology" had been reviewed from the experience of the CAO members, from its usage in common language, in industry and in other academic settings, and through consultation with the WPI CDC, and ultimately it was concluded that naming our current MIS degree "IT" would not be appropriate.

- The motion fails to note this previous history and does not make clear what has changed since then to make the motion now appropriate.
- CAO rejects the motion and invites the originator to resubmit with greater explanation and clarification for why the ITS prefix is appropriate, in particular noting what has changed since the last submission
- Rejected

Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm

Respectfully submitted,
V.J. Manzo, CAO