

Committee on Academic Policy  
Minutes of Meeting #4, Academic Year 2016-2017  
September 30, 2016

Present: M. Humi (Chair); J. Beck; J. Doyle; M. Elmes; J. Hanlan; A. Heinricher; D. Olinger

The minutes of the meeting of September 23 were approved with some revisions.

Discussion continued of CAP's revised proposal on Independent Study Policy, which CAP hopes to bring to the October Faculty meeting. The policy is crafted in three separate motions. Members were in general agreement that motions 1 and 2 would be relatively routine business for the Faculty, but that Motion 3 might generate some discussion. CAP voted separately on each of the 3 motions:

- Motion 1 passed;
- Motion 2 passed;
- Motion 3 passed.

Discussion of faculty teaching evaluations ensued. WPI's current system for the evaluation for non tenure track (NTT) faculty seemed to some members to be inadequate. It was seen as important for NTT faculty who might want to move to a tenure track position in the future to have a documented, written record of the quality of their teaching performance based on written appraisal(s) of a committee of their colleagues. Those written appraisals, it was argued, should be shared beyond the departmental level with a copy to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Discussion then turned to the current system of teaching appraisals for post-tenure Faculty. The system providing for such regular appraisals has largely fallen into abeyance for reasons that committee members speculated upon. Some few departments apparently conduct such appraisals according to the rules adopted by the Faculty in 1991. Others do not. Some departments apparently never did conduct such reviews.

Discussion of teaching reviews will require additional thought and CAP agreed to continue such discussions at future meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hanlan, Secretary