

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

Minutes, Meeting #10, 2015-2016

November 30, 2015

Present: J. Doyle (Chair); J. Beck; L. Capogna; M. Elmes; J. Hanlan; A. Heinricher; A. Romeo; J. Ross; J. Rulfs; Guest: R. Vaz

The minutes of the meeting of Nov. 16 were approved.

Dean Richard Vaz joined CAP as a guest to discuss the proposed 3 year experimental modification to the current WPI policy of undergraduate students being unable to receive pay for a project on which they are simultaneously receiving academic credit. Dean Vaz indicated that, while there is some uncertainty over whether or not the proposed experimental policy would be better than the current policy, it is clear that, if WPI does not allow those companies that wish to pay students who are working off campus on academic projects for which they are receiving credit, WPI and our students will lose opportunities for some desirable project experiences. Would a company, if they paid students, become reluctant to pay WPI a fee for the project? Such fees are currently used to support part of our off-campus programs. The answer is that we simply do not know. That is one of the questions on which the proposed 3 year experimental program would enable WPI to gather some data. The appropriate role of CPE in collecting, administering, and distributing funds under the proposed new policy was discussed. These questions could perhaps be answered by data gathered during the 3 year experimental period. CAP expressed a consensus agreement that it had faith in the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of IGSD playing the major role in the evaluation and reporting back to CAP at the end of the proposed 3 year experiment.

The proposal for a 3 year experimental modification to our current policy of “pay or credit, but not both” was approved unanimously. Professor Doyle will make some modifications to the proposal based on today’s discussion and distribute the final draft to CAP members via email during the coming week. The intention is to present the proposed policy change for discussion only at the December, 2015, Faculty meeting and to bring the policy for a vote at the January, 2016, Faculty meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
James P. Hanlan