

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

Minutes, Meeting #5, 2015-2016

October 5, 2015

Present: J. Doyle (Chair); L. Capogna; M. Elmes; J. Hanlan; A. Heinricher; A. Romeo, J. Ross, J. Rulfs The minutes of the meeting of Sept. 28 were approved.

Prof. Doyle reported on a webinar on student internships and the legal issues thereto appertaining which he attended along with Prof. Beck. As a result of the content presented in that webinar, Prof Doyle sees no apparent compliance issues for WPI created by current policy. The issues presented for companies, however, are different from those presented for WPI. Many companies with which WPI works insist on paying student interns. The Provost has formed a group to study this issue in depth and CAP will forestall any further consideration of the issue until the Provost's group issues its findings.

It was noted that, in 1973, WPI adopted a policy that no payment would be allowed to students for work to which academic credit is attached. The question of the policies of our AITU peer institutions on this matter arose. Harvey Mudd and Olin both allow a fee to the college, but no compensation to the student. It was noted, however, that students from Harvey Mudd and Olin do not work on site at the companies.

As a result of an email correspondence from a Faculty member, a brief discussion of the continuation of the online course evaluation experiment concentrated on a possible nonresponse bias and the potential impact of such a bias for pre-tenure Faculty. There was discussion that a note to CTAF and COAP from Prof. Doyle and Dean Heinricher could be considered.

The discussion of the definition of what constitutes an ISP continued. There was memory of an apparent lengthy discussion, dating from the formulation of the WPI Plan, of what constitutes an ISP, what its advantages were for both Faculty and students, and the ways in which ISPs could fit into the curriculum. Prof. Doyle will work with the Faculty Governance Office to search for the minutes of such a discussion in the Archives.

Respectfully submitted,
James P. Hanlan