

Minutes of FAP Meeting #20 AY2017-18
2 March 2018; 11 a.m. – 12 noon
Faculty Governance Conference Room

In attendance: Tanja Dominko (Chair), Nancy Burnham (Secretary), Tahar El-Korchi, AVP
Kristopher Sullivan

Absent: CFO Jeffrey Soloman, Fabienne Miller

Invited Guest: Suzanne Scarlata, representing CGSR

1. The day's agenda was approved.
2. The minutes of meetings #18 were discussed and will be revised. The minutes of meeting #19 were approved.
3. **Reduction of the cost of dissertation research credit.** Professor Scarlata started by commenting that WPI is less supportive of graduate research than other universities. WPI may be in danger of losing faculty to other institutions by its non-competitiveness. CGSR has looked at ways that other universities manage this challenge. Three approaches were suggested:
 - a. Reduce the number of credits required for the PhD degree, e.g. reducing credits from 90 to 60. This approach would involve major structural changes to our programs.
 - b. Reduce the tuition fee for 699 dissertation credits. All PhD students at WPI must register for at least 30 research credits. These credits could be set at a significant discount.
 - c. Discount tuition on grants from the current 50% to 90%.

Total graduate tuition is about 26M\$, about 2M\$ of which (~7%) is received from tuition on grants. If tuition on grants were to be discounted by 90% (option c), then the cost to WPI would be approximately 650K\$. Less tuition charged to grants may allow for additional other direct costs to become available on the grant. These additional direct costs may generate additional ICR mitigating the impact of the loss of tuition.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A Burnham
FAP Secretary 2017-18