

**Date:** April 16, 2025

**To:** WPI Faculty

**From:** Committee on Governance (Prof. Troy, Chair) and Committee on Advising and Student Life (Prof. Doyle, Chair)

**Re:** Motion to modify the Roles and Responsibilities of CASL

**Motion:** The Committee on Advising and Student Life (CASL) recommends and I move that the language describing the roles and responsibilities of CASL be modified as described below.

**Current Faculty Handbook description** ([Chapter One, Bylaw Three, Section VII](#)):

*Roles and Responsibilities*

CASL is responsible for the continuing development of the student advisory and counseling programs. It reviews the effectiveness of the programs, evaluates current practices in the areas of student environment, residential advising systems, and extracurricular activities as they affect the academic performance of the student body, and recommends changes as appropriate.

**Proposed new Faculty Handbook description:**

*Roles and Responsibilities*

CASL works collaboratively with the Division of Student Affairs (e.g., the Dean of Students, the Center for Well-Being, and Student Activities) and the Division of Academic Affairs (e.g., the Office of Academic Advising, Accessibility Services, and Graduate Studies), on the continuing development of programs, policies, and other measures that affect student advising, student life, and student wellbeing. In the general area of student advising, the committee is concerned with both undergraduate and graduate academic advising, academic support programs, and policies and programs that impact academic advising. In the general area of student life, the committee is concerned with extracurricular activities as they affect the academic performance of the student body and policies (such as the Student Code of Conduct and the Academic Integrity Policy) that impact the student experience at WPI. In the general area of student wellbeing, the committee is concerned with programs designed to improve the physical, mental, emotional, and social health of students, and with understanding how other programs and policies may impact various aspects of student wellness. In all cases, the committee works with representatives of the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Academic Advising, and Graduate & Professional Studies to understand current best practices in the areas of academic advising, student life, and student well-being as they relate to academic performance; to review the effectiveness of current programs, policies, and procedures relevant to these areas; and to collaborate on the review and/or revision of policies relevant to student life.

**Rationale:**

[Chapter 1, Bylaw Two, Section I. General Duties of Faculty Committees](#) states that “committees should review their roles, responsibilities, and membership described in [Bylaw Three](#) at least once every three years to either affirm that the charge and membership need no changes or to propose modifications based on evolving needs and circumstances. Committees that identify such modifications work with the Committee on Governance to bring proposed modifications approved by both committees to the Faculty for its consideration.”

In reflecting upon its discussions and deliberations over recent years, CASL has identified the need for an updated charge that better reflects the inherently collaborative nature of its work and acknowledges the growth in importance of new areas of interest and concern related to the student experience. CASL’s work has broadened to encompass whole-student advising: academic advising, student life, and student wellbeing. In particular, with the adoption of the Okanagan Charter, WPI has made a commitment to the holistic wellbeing of students and the balance of intellectual, mental, emotional, and physical health. WPI has also pledged to integrate well-being into its operations across the university, and including it in the description of CASL’s responsibilities is one step in that direction.