Educational Effectiveness Assessment: 2019-2020
Executive Summary

The Educational Effectiveness Assessment (formerly known as the Educational Outcomes Assessment) was conducted by the Academic Affairs department, with the assistance of other components of IWP. It is presented annually to the Assessment Committee for its review, suggestions, and guidance. The Committee's recommendations are then forwarded to the Academic Council and (where appropriate) the Executive Vice President for review and approval.

In the course of conducting this assessment, the department identified several positive developments:

- Grading rigor appears to be high. There are no signs of grade inflation, excessive failing grades, or inappropriately high numbers of incomplete grades or withdrawals.

- Student performance in the comprehensive exams suggests that they are adequately achieving the expected learning outcomes at both the institutional and program level.

- Student survey data indicates broad satisfaction with IWP's academic rigor and educational relevance to their career goals.

- Students are very satisfied with our support services, to include career counseling, writing remediation, and library support.

Issues of Concern:

- Students expressed a desire for more comprehensive feedback from faculty. This is an issue that has come up repeatedly in the past and will be emphasized in communications from the Dean of Academics to the faculty.

- Students need to improve their technical and software knowledge. The President and/ or Dean of Academics should endorse (and the Institute should approve) the purchase of student subscriptions to LinkedIn Learning and/ or Tableau. Faculty should then be encouraged to make use of these platforms (where appropriate) in their classes.

- IWP still lacks the broader name recognition required to compete effectively against our larger, better funded rivals. The current marketing efforts should continue and (if possible) expand to improve our academic reputation.

- There are a sizable number of inactive courses that have not been offered in several years. IWP should either remove these courses from the website or find new faculty to teach them.

- Some students have questioned the value and relevance of the core classes, to include those on political philosophy. The President and/ or the Dean of Academics should emphasize to incoming students why these courses are so central to the IWP approach to education.

- Inadequate IT support has continued to be a frequent student complaint. IWP should consider hiring a full-time IT support staff member.