

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #14: 29 November 2021
Campus Center, Morgan Conference Room

Present: Len Albano (Acting Chair, CEE); Nancy Burnham (PH); Tanja Dominko (BBT); George Heineman (Acting Secretary, CS); Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE); Susan Roberts (CHE); Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

Absent: Tahar El-Korchi (Chair, CEE)

Prof. Albano called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

1. The agenda was approved as distributed.
2. The minutes of COG meeting #13 on November 22, 2021 were approved with modifications.
3. Preparations for the December Faculty Meeting:
Upcoming December 2nd faculty meeting will include motions for undergraduate and graduate degree candidates. There will be a CAP motion regarding posthumous undergraduate degrees. CITP will also give a presentation on IT Policies related to the privacy of WPI community members. Meeting will continue to be held on Zoom.
4. Now that all faculty have right to vote, how is this implemented in WPI departments/programs:
In the past, different departments had department rules for who could vote. COG proposes to draft a set of guidelines for all academic units, to be shared for discussion at monthly Department Heads' meeting. These guidelines do not change policy (i.e., voting rights for all faculty are now part of Faculty governance) and are meant to encourage departments to be clear about internal rules for voting. There will remain a difference between *voting in department elections* and *the right to serve on some department committees*. For example, when a department seeks input for a local department tenure committee (DTC), NTT faculty should not be omitted from the voting, but they cannot serve on the DTC. Prof. Roberts volunteered to draft a set of bullet points for presentation at Department Heads' meeting, and Prof. Richman and Prof. El-Korchi will request to attend the meeting.
5. Faculty review of Administrators:
Different COG members have reached out to the administrators in the first round of review. They are the VPR, Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
6. Feedback on Academic Administrative appointments
Prof. Dominko has emailed request for feedback/comments to the VPR and all academic deans (requested response by December 9th) on the topic of Academic Administrative appointments.
7. COG Election Procedures:
Prof. Richman and Prof. El-Korchi met with the TRT Council to further discuss representation by NTT/TRT faculty members on COG. The long-term goal is to demonstrate full collaboration between

TTT and TRT Faculty members within the Faculty Governance system. COG plans to draft a motion (after joint discussions with TRT council). It is noted that any change to the Faculty Handbook requires two meetings' advanced notice, so the plan is to present a motion in advance of the January meeting with voting taking place in the February meeting. Some topics under discussion include: a *lower bound of NTT membership* on elected faculty committees and perhaps an *upper bound*; preference of elections over appointments to committees; with current ratio of TTT to NTT at about 4-to-1, this ratio should be reflected in committee membership.

8. Update on student and campus well-being:

Committee chairs' meeting moved to Tuesday November 30th. The plan is to invite the leads for the Mental Health and Well-Being Task Force to attend the meeting; even though this meeting is not at its regular time, it is hoped that there will be full attendance. The goal is to identify and prioritize any proposed changes that would need to go through Faculty Governance committees.

9. Update on Trustees Award for Outstanding Teaching:

COG continues to work with the chairs of CASL, CAO and CGSR to assemble a list of nominees to serve as COG's appointment.

10. Observations regarding the number of interim Department Heads at WPI in School or Arts & Science:

COG observed there are a large number of interim department heads in the school: Prof. Olson (MA), Prof. Rao (Biology and Biotechnology), Prof. Mattson (Chemistry and Biochemistry), and Prof. Krueger (Social Science & Policy Studies). Prof. Roberts and Prof. Dominko will reach out to invite Dean King to attend a future COG meeting.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Heineman
Acting Secretary, COG