

Committee on Governance Minutes
Meeting #17: February 24, 2020
Faculty Governance: Olive Branch Office

Present: Kris Boudreau (Secretary, HUA), Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT), Tahar El-Korchi (CEE), Glenn Gaudette (Chair, BME), Arne Gericke (CBC, Zoomed in), Mark Richman (ME), and Sue Roberts (ChE).

Absent: Wole Soboyejo (Provost, Zoomed out)

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 10:07; the agenda was approved and then ignored.
2. The minutes from meeting #16 were revised to effectively summarize general faculty sentiment following the “WPI Forward” presentation made at the Feb. 13 faculty meeting, and were later approved in final form electronically.
3. Review of Trustees Meeting: COG discussed a meeting held the previous week between several COG members and several members of the Board of Trustees (BoT). In that meeting, discussion focused on the climate on campus and on concerns raised by COG in its recent meetings. COG members appreciated the careful attention the Board had been paying to the COG minutes. Both COG and BoT members shared their observations about how the campus environment has evolved to a point of tension after the overwhelming positivity of last year’s BGWG resolution. While WPI must look seriously at expenditures and find significant reductions, neither the Trustees nor faculty governance wants to jeopardize WPI’s academic mission. All agreed to work toward identifying and agreeing on rules of engagement that would allow true collaboration.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Dutifully submitted,

Kris Boudreau
Secretary, COG