

## Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #26: April 28, 2020

Faculty Governance Branch Offices

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

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.; the agenda was approved as amended.
2. After considerable discussion, the minutes from meeting #25 were approved with modifications. Prof. Roberts noted that COG's granular discussions about the minutes that take over half of all meeting time are unnecessary and inappropriate.
3. PCRIAP and Development of APG. Prof. Gaudette shared his disappointment about the inaccuracies contained in the Provost's April 27 email letter to the faculty. Specifically, he noted that the communication misrepresented the responses from faculty governance about the PCRIAP. As just one of many examples, he illustrated how the "factual summary" attached to the Provost's email distorted the meaning of one of Prof. Dominko's emails by extracting one sentence, taking it out of context, and omitting an important part that would have revealed Prof. Dominko's true meaning. Prof. Gaudette restored the context to demonstrate the original meaning.

The Provost pointed out his gratitude to the faculty in navigating this difficult time for WPI. He explained that his email says everything he intended to say and he will not publicly discuss the details.

Prof. Dominko added her concerns about the serious misrepresentations of the Provost's communication. At that point, the Provost had to leave for another meeting. Prof. Dominko explained that she can identify all the inaccuracies in the Provost's communication to the faculty and clearly demonstrate the misrepresentations it spread. These are not opinions but facts.

4. CAP motion on grading projects. COG reviewed a motion from CAP extending the flexible grading approved by the faculty to project grading during the COVID campus shutdown. The proposal gives undergraduate students the option to earn a Pass/NR grade for project work completed in D-term 2020. COG supports the option for P/NR grading on D-term projects and voiced a preference for allowing students to earn high distinction even in cases where one of the 3 major projects is a D-term project that earns a grade of P. COG separated the CAP motion into one motion related to project grade changes and another motion related to the criteria for graduating with high distinction, and amended the CAP motion to indicate that any graduating student enrolled in a project during D 2020 be eligible for high distinction if they earn a grade of A on 2 of the 3 required projects. COG approved the amended motion.

5. Faculty evaluations of administrators. Before the end of the academic year, COG will issue evaluations of the Provost, the President, and the Institution.
  
6. Handbook changes to include Deans in evaluation of Department Heads. Prof. Gaudette reported on the Deans' responses to the revised motion to include Deans in the reviews of Department Heads. Although the Deans continue to request changes having to do with the possibility of some departments residing in more than one school, COG suggested that the Provost explain to the Deans why he's comfortable with the proposal as it is. The proposal defers consideration of the possibility of departments residing in two schools, and therefore COG believes reference to departments belonging in multiple schools would be premature in this particular proposal. Prof. Gaudette will ask the Provost to explain COG's thinking to the Deans.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Boudreau  
Secretary, COG