

Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes

Meeting #28: 5 April 2022

Faculty Governance Branch Offices

Present: Len Albano (Secretary, CEAE); Nancy Burnham (PH); Tanja Dominko (BBT); Tahar El-Korchi (Chair, CEAE); George Heineman (CS); Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE); Susan Roberts (CHE)

Absent: Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

Invited Guest: Germano Iannacchione (Chair of COAP, PH)

1. Prof. El-Korchi called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes of COG meeting #27 on March 29, 2022 were approved with modifications.

4. **Preparations for the April Faculty Meeting:**

The April 14th Faculty Meeting will include three motions for faculty vote. One is a joint motion from the Committee on Academic Operations (CAO) and the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) to rename the “Physical Education Requirement” the “Wellness and Physical Education Requirement.” This motion is submitted on behalf of the Physical Education Department so that students may fulfill this requirement through a broader range of activities directed at physical or mental wellbeing. The second is a joint motion from the Committee on Tenure and Freedom (CTAF) and COG to extend the probationary period by one year for tenure-track faculty members who started on the tenure-track this academic year (COG meeting #26). Last, there will be a joint motion from the Committee on Appointments and Promotions (COAP) and COG to clearly require the submission of professional associate letters in applications for promotion to Associate Teaching Professor (COG meeting #27). Depending on progress made in today’s meeting, there may also be one or more draft motions from COAP and COG presented to the faculty for discussion, only. As an item for open discussion, Prof. Richman will present the newly required Annual Report on Faculty Populations at WPI.

Prof. Richman asked for input on whether to conduct an in-person or remote faculty meeting. Given the recent increase in COVID cases on campus, the consensus among COG members was to conduct the meeting remotely.

5. **Update on Faculty Governance Elections:**

The elections for COG, the Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom (CTAF), and the Committee on Appointments and Promotions (COAP) have been completed, and Prof. Richman is in the process of contacting the faculty members elected to each committee. An announcement to the faculty on the election results is forthcoming. Prof. Richman expressed his appreciation for the 30 faculty members who were willing to have their names appear on the ballots and were willing to serve, if elected.

6. COAP's Proposed Changes to Faculty Handbook:

Prof. Iannacchione (PH; COAP Chair) joined the meeting to discuss COAP's proposed changes to the *Faculty Handbook* (COG meeting #27). As background, Prof. Iannacchione stated that COAP reviewed the *Faculty Handbook* to identify the locations where explicit language is needed for the Professors of Teaching track, and COAP's intention is to treat all tenured and tenure-track faculty equally in terms of the process and procedure for promotion. COAP also shared the proposed changes with members of the TRT Council.

Prior to the meeting, Prof. Richman and Prof. Iannacchione electronically shared three draft motions with COG members for their review and discussion. Two of the motions will add language to the *Faculty Handbook* describing the criteria and the procedure for promotion to (full) Professor of Teaching rank. These changes will be inserted as new subsections D.2 within PART TWO, Policies and Operating Procedures; Section 1, Policies Regarding the Status of Faculty; Section D, Promotion. The third motion updates the guidelines for eligibility and time-in-rank for the promotion of all tenured and tenure-track faculty members, and these guidelines will be placed in section D.3. Procedures for Promotion Nomination and Review.

COG members discussed and modified the first motion that describes the criteria for promotion to (full) Professor of Teaching, making sure that the language referring to teaching practice and professional growth and currency is consistent with the details given in the Tenure Criteria for the Associate and (full) Professor of Teaching (*Faculty Handbook*, Part Two, Section 1.A) and in the Guidance for Documenting and Assessing Activities Toward Tenure for Professors of Teaching (*Faculty Handbook*, Part Two, Section 1.A). COG members also felt that it is important to bring the three draft motions to the faculty for discussion and feedback at a Faculty Meeting so that the process of revising the motions would have wider faculty input. Consequently, a motion to present the three draft motions at the April Faculty Meeting for discussion only was made and approved. Prof. Richman will add these motions to the agenda and include them in the packet of meeting materials that will be distributed to the faculty on Thursday, April 7th.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano
Secretary, COG