Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes
Meeting #32: 3 May 2022
Faculty Governance Branch Offices

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

Absent: Tahar El-Korchi (Chair, CEAE); Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

1. Prof. Richman called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

2. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. The minutes of COG meeting #31 on April 26, 2022 were approved with modifications.

4. Preparations for the May Faculty Meeting:
    The items on the agenda for the May 10th Faculty Meeting have been finalized, and Prof. Richman will distribute an invitation and meeting materials to the faculty later today. There will be several business items for faculty voting: the May 2022 graduation lists for undergraduate and graduate students; three joint motions from the Committee on Appointments and Promotions (COAP) and COG; a joint motion from the Committee on Financial & Administrative Policy (FAP), the Fringe Benefits Committee (FBC), and COG to endorse a Resolution calling for WPI to restore retirement benefits to pre-COVID levels; a motion from the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP) to approve the Learning Management System (LMS) and Video Lecture Support Policy; and a motion from the Committee on Graduate Studies & Research (CGSR) to make changes to WPI's rules for the BS/MS Program. A presentation from FAP on executive compensation was under consideration (COG meeting #30), but this will be deferred to the fall to allow for sufficient time for the presentation and an open discussion. The meeting materials will also include a draft Resolution calling on WPI to divest endowment funds from the fossil fuel industries. The Resolution was written by Prof. Strauss (DIGS) in parallel to a similar resolution authored by the organization DivestWPI and the Student Government Association (COG meeting #31). The draft Resolution will not be discussed at the May Faculty Meeting, but faculty will be asked to review it and give feedback to Prof. Strauss over the summer so that a revised version can be brought to the faculty for a vote in the fall.

5. Update on Faculty Governance Elections:
    Election ballots for the nine remaining standing committees of the faculty were distributed to the faculty as a Qualtrics survey link on Wednesday morning, April 27th. These nine committees are the Committee on Academic Operations (CAO), CAP, Committee on Advising and Student Life (CASL), CGSR, Campus Hearing Board (CHB), Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF), FAP, Faculty Review Committee (FRC), and the Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC). The deadline to respond is Wednesday, May 4th at 6pm. Prof. Richman expects that the results will be announced by the end of this week because the use of a Qualtrics survey facilitates the counting of ballots.

6. CITP Membership Update:
   The Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP) is a faculty-appointed committee with faculty members selected by the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP), the Committee on Tenure & Academic Freedom (CTAF), and COG. For AY 2022-23, these three representatives will be from the Computer Science (CS) Department. Prof. Richman asked Committee members whether the departmental composition of CITP should be reviewed. The consensus of the Committee is that this situation is acceptable and not surprising because CS faculty have certain expertise in matters related to computing, information technology, and cybersecurity.

7. COG Appointments to CMC and RDC:
   Prof. Richman reminded the Committee that it must appoint two faculty representatives: one to fill a vacancy on the Conflict Management Committee (CMC), and the other for a vacancy on the Research Development Council (RDC). It was suggested that the pool of possible candidates can include those faculty members who expressed a willingness to serve on CGSR in the current election cycle but were not elected.

8. Update on President's Search:
   Prof. Heineman, who is a member of the Presidential Search Committee, reported that the Committee has been working to prepare a specification document that will articulate the qualities and characteristics that WPI is seeking in its next president and present the important attributes and points of pride for WPI. Search Committee meetings will also be used for anti-bias training. Prof. Roberts, who represents department heads on the Search Committee, added that the meetings have been productive with open sharing of ideas and feedback.

9. Final COG Meeting for AY 2021-22:
   A final COG meeting will be scheduled to close out the academic year and to start the transition to next academic year. Recently elected faculty representatives Prof. Danielski (HUA), Prof. LePage (CEAE) and Prof. Troy (BME) as well as Dean Heinricher, who will be the Interim Provost and an *ex officio* member, will be invited.

10. New Business:
    Committee members discussed business items that may receive consideration next academic year. These included clarifying eligibility for Faculty Elections, search committees for Academic Administrators, academic policies vs. administrative policies and the need to include Faculty Governance when policies affect the academic mission, input to tenure policies recommended by the ADVANCE working group, and faculty evaluations of Academic Administrators.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 12:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano
Secretary, COG