Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes
Meeting #25: 15 March 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); Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

Absent: Susan Roberts (CHE)

1. Prof. El-Korchi called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

2. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. The minutes of COG meeting #24 on February 28, 2022 were approved with modifications.

4. COG Schedule for D-term:
    COG will meet on Tuesdays from noon to 1 pm. Prof. El-Korchi noted that if, on occasion, discussion items require significantly more time, the Committee may need to extend the meeting time or call an additional meeting.

5. Preparations for March Faculty Meeting:
    Prof. Richman reported that the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP) will be introducing a motion to modify the WPI Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). The motion will be brought for discussion only. The revisions to the AUP are rather minor, involving changes in formatting and sectioning; the key elements of the AUP remain the same. The agenda will also include the presentation of two reports for open discussion. First, Prof. Foo (DIGS) and Matt Barry (Assistant Director, Student Development and Counseling Center) will present a "Report on Campus Mental Health and Well-Being: Focus on Faculty, Staff, and Special Student Populations," and Prof. Demetry (MME; Director, Morgan Center for Teaching and Learning) will follow with a summary of general WPI faculty sentiment as reflected in the results of the 2021 COACHE Survey.

6. Leadership Transition Update and Provost Selection:
    President Leshin and Provost Soboyejo have started the process of engaging the community to identify the desired qualities for the Interim Provost. They met with the Chairs of the Faculty Governance Committees on Monday, March 14th, and they are planning conversations with Department Heads, leaders of Interdisciplinary Programs, and the Academic Staff in the Provost's Office. There will also be opportunity for the community to provide feedback anonymously.

    The Provost was asked about the timeline for this process and whether it will be his decision to appoint the Interim Provost. He indicated that about two weeks will be spent collecting information, and then President Leshin will appoint the Interim Provost.   The Provost added that President Leshin is working collaboratively with him to appoint someone who will be able to work with him in his role as Interim President and will work with the faculty.

The Provost was also asked whether any consideration was given to making the Interim Provost ineligible to serve as Provost, following the installation of the next WPI President. Provost Soboyejo stated that the two positions do not have the same requirements. He views the position of Interim Provost as a service to WPI: the individual will be called upon to provide a steady hand, to be sensitive to the needs of the faculty, and to promote stability within the community.

7. <u>President's Search Update:</u>

Prof. Richman informed the Committee that Lauren Turner (Senior VP of Talent & Inclusion) and Trustee David LaPre '74 (Chair of the Presidential Search) also met with the Chairs of the Faculty Governance Committees on Monday, March 14th and outlined the search process. Prof. Richman shared his notes from this meeting, reflecting the tentative thinking of the Board thus far:

> The Search Committee will consist of eighteen to twenty members, plus the Chair of the Search Committee. The planned composition of the Search Committee includes nine members of the Board of Trustees, three or four faculty members, one Dean, one Department Head, two students, two staff members, and one member of the Leadership Team. It is expected that the faculty representatives will be appointed by the Deans and COG, the representative Dean will be appointed by the Provost, and the representative Department Head will be appointed by the Provost and the Deans.

> The search will be closed, but three six-member advisory groups will be established to give broader community input to the process. Each six-member advisory group will consist of a mix of two academics (selected from a group of four faculty members, a Dean, and a Department Head), one student, one staff member, one alum, and one member of the Management Council. Two of the four faculty members will be chosen by COG or by election, and the other two will be chosen by the Deans. All other members of the advisory groups will be chosen by the Search Committee.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano
Secretary, COG