

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #35 (2017-18)
Monday, April 30, 2018, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Faculty Governance Conference Room

In Attendance: Leonard Albano, Glenn Gaudette (Chair), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty), David Spanagel (Secretary), Bengisu Tulu, and Suzanne Weekes.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.
 2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
 3. The minutes for COG meeting #34 (Apr. 23) were approved as amended.
 4. COG members discussed potential appointees to the Research Development Council. Prof. Gaudette was authorized to name one of two top choices recommended by the committee. CGSR will also be making a faculty member appointment to help round out the membership of the RDC.
 5. COG members discussed potential appointees for a fourth unelected faculty member to serve on FAP (Committee on Financial and Academic Policy) for the coming year. Prof. Gaudette was authorized to name one of two top choices recommended by the committee.
 6. Prof. Richman consulted with COG with respect to preparations of the agenda for the May Faculty meeting, noting that several committee business items and important discussion topics are all vying for a share of the allotted meeting time. COG members expressed surprise at the sudden urgency of introducing revisions to the third Faculty Conduct Policy before the (second) Sexual Misconduct Policy has even been fully approved.
 7. With respect to remaining Old Business items that had been inherited by COG's 2017-18 agenda from the previous year, COG members expressed their concern at the amount of tangible progress they had made on two such items:
 - a. developing and articulating a shared plan with the Administration for how large and how quickly the TT faculty number can be increased, to concretely proceed to address the persistent imbalance in credits delivered by TT/NTT faculty; and
 - b. obtaining a clear statement on how the Role(s) of Academic Deans at WPI should be generally understood and specifically assessed, as well as fully implemented into the various policies and procedures of the Faculty Handbook.
- Prof Gaudette noted that both of these items had already been conceived as COG agenda items when he joined the committee three years ago. COG members hope that more rapid progress on these issues will be possible in a climate of better sharing of data and of priorities between the Administration and the Faculty during the coming year.
8. COG members welcomed Student Government Association President Sarah Boecker to share her perspective on the student experience at WPI, and to identify opportunities for more effective coordination between the WPI student government and faculty governance systems.
 9. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, Secretary