

**Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #36 (2017-18)**  
**Thursday, June 7, 2018, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon**  
**Faculty Governance Conference Room**

In Attendance: Leonard Albano, Provost Bruce Bursten, Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty-*elect*), Glenn Gaudette (Chair), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty), Susan Roberts, David Spanagel (Secretary, participating via teleconference), and Bengisu Tulu.

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:07 am.
2. Election of the Chair for academic year 2018-19:

Prof. Spanagel was nominated and elected.
3. The minutes for COG meeting #35 (Apr. 30) were approved as amended.
4. Prof. Gaudette shared updates on committee appointments:

Prof. Elke Rundensteiner has agreed to serve as COG's appointee to the RDC (Research Development Council).

Prof. Randy Paffenroth has agreed to serve on FAP (Committee on Financial and Academic Policy) for the coming year.
5. Prof. Gaudette asked COG members to review a notice sent by Dean Camesano and Dean Heinricher on behalf of the Academic Calendar Committee. They recommend making a change to the already-published academic calendars for the 2018-19 academic year. This change would move the flip day in C term from January 23 to January 9. The first day of classes would remain Wednesday, January 9, but both graduate and undergraduate classes would follow a Monday schedule on the first day. COG fully supports the proposed change.
6. Prof. Gaudette shared a report that he had received on May 22 from the Faculty Review Committee (FRC) regarding the operational procedures for promotion at WPI. He asked COG members to recommend next steps. Profs. Albano and Richman suggested that the report be forwarded to both COAP (Committee on Academic Promotions) and CTAF (Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom). Provost Bursten indicated that clearer language in the Faculty Handbook could specify what role the Trustees' Academic Planning Committee (APC) plays in tenure and promotion decisions. Prof. Richman pointed out that the report from the FRC touched on some nuanced issues and agreed to work with Provost Bursten to bring these issues to the attention of both COAP and CTAF, so that those committees can prepare recommendations for COG.
7. Profs. Gaudette and Richman recounted the steps they had taken to share the results of this year's Faculty Annual Review of Administrators with all the relevant stakeholder groups and individuals. An important formal part of the review process includes an offer by the Secretary of the Faculty and the Chair of COG to meet with each administrator to help interpret their results. So far, only one of the administrators reviewed this year has expressed an interest in reviewing the feedback with them.

COG members reflected on how the format had been based on similar surveys done at other institutions and noted the care with which all questions had been developed and tailored directly through exchanges and agreement with each administrator. Prof. Spanagel also wondered whether the new category of questions about WPI's institutional direction had been recognized for its distinctive value.

As a whole, the committee expressed a desire to see a more forthright and serious acknowledgment by the President and the Chair of the Trustees regarding the legitimacy of the review process and the validity of the constructive feedback provided by the instrument.

Prof. Dominko indicated her intention to establish a stronger shared understanding of the essential value of Faculty perspectives and insights on WPI as a whole, through regular meetings with the Chair Jack Mollen going forward.

Prof. Gaudette promised to complete the COG annual report by August so that it can be distributed near the start of A term.

8. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, Secretary