Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #20 (2016-17)
Monday, February 13, 2017, 12:15 am– 1:45 pm
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

<u>Members</u>: Leonard Albano (Secretary), Provost Bruce Bursten, Tanja Dominko (Chair), Glenn Gaudette, Mark Richman and Suzanne Weekes
<u>Absent:</u> Eleanor Loiacono
<u>Guest</u>: Allen Hoffman (Chair, FRC)

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:20 pm.

2. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. Prof. Hoffman discussed feedback from the Faculty Review Committee (FRC) on COG's proposed changes to the description of the FRC (Faculty Handbook, p. 1-12) and the Operational Guidelines of the FRC (Faculty Handbook, Appendix B, p. 1-28). As noted in the minutes for COG Meeting #15 (December 12th), the proposed changes modify the existing appeals policy for negative tenure decisions to include negative decisions on tenure and promotion, and update the grounds for discrimination. The FRC responded that the new language on the appeal of negative promotion decisions was ambiguous as to whether the policy included non-tenure-track faculty, or was limited to tenured and tenure-track faculty. The FRC recommended that WPI's general counsel review the grounds for discrimination, and also suggested that the grounds for discrimination should be listed in the description of the FRC and in its Operational Guidelines. COG agreed to reconsider the language for the proposed changes and to consult with WPI's general counsel on the grounds for discrimination. It will provide the FRC with an updated version of the motion.

4. Prof. Dominko shared an update on the COG/CAP motion to revise the membership of UOAC, which would include adding the Director of Institutional Research (DIR) as a voting member. In response to COG's request (meeting #18 on January 30th), UOAC reported meeting with VP Tichenor to discuss the DIR's inclusion on the committee and VP Tichenor is supportive of the DIR's participation. UOAC also provided a revised version of the motion for COG's consideration. The new motion contains UOAC's rationale for adding the DIR to its membership; the list of members was also modified from the previous version to include the "Director of Institutional Research (or her/his) designee." COG discussed the revised motion and concerns were raised that altering the language to include the DIR's designee was not consistent with the UOAC's stated reasons for adding the DIR to its membership. As a result, the revised motion was not approved, and Prof. Dominko will return it to the UOAC with COG's feedback.

5. The Minutes from Meeting #19 (February 6th) were approved with amendments.

6. Update on the ballots for election of new members to COG, CTAF, COAP and other standing committees of the Faculty

i.   Prof. Richman informed the committee that the ballots for COG, CTAF, and COAP will be distributed to the Faculty this week.
ii. Committee members provided additional names of faculty members who have volunteered to run for election for the other standing committees. Prof. Dominko will update the recording spreadsheet and bring it to the next meeting so that the committee can start to compose the ballot.

7. The committee continued its discussion on possible strategies to increase the number of faculty member who are willing to serve on CTAF and COAP. Granting course releases to individual faculty members and increasing the number of faculty members on CTAF and COAP were discussed as two means for possibly reducing the workloads associated with these two committees. The role of the academic departments in valuing service in Faculty Governance and the larger WPI community in addition to service at the departmental level was also discussed.

8. An updated version of the proposal to revise the "Membership, Duties, and Responsibilities" of the Committee on Governance (Faculty Handbook Part One, Section Three, Bylaw One) was reviewed. As a follow-up from last week's meeting, the language describing the preparation of the electing ballot for COG and the time frame for electing faculty members to standing committees other than COG, CTAF, and COAP were modified. The committee also made some adjustments in wording to improve clarity.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully,
Len Albano, Secretary