

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #26 (2016-17)
Monday, April 3, 2017, 12:15 pm – 1:45 pm
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

In Attendance: Leonard Albano (Secretary), Tanja Dominko (Chair), Glenn Gaudette, Eleanor Loiacono, Mark Richman, David Spanagel, and Suzanne Weekes

Absent: Provost Bruce Bursten

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:20 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. Announcements
Prof. Albano and Spanagel gave an update on the COAP-COG Working Group on Promotion. They met with Prof. Aravind, who is the COAP representative to the Working Group, to review progress on professional development and mentoring and discuss possible next steps. One option would be to engage an external consultant to conduct a faculty workshop or training event for mentoring. COG members were not supportive of engaging an external consultant; they commented that expertise is already available on the WPI campus and models for mentoring are widely available.
4. The Minutes from Meeting #25 (March 27th) were approved as amended.
5. Professional administrative development for Faculty
The committee discussed opportunities for Faculty to gain experience in academic administrative leadership. Copies of draft guidelines, dated January 2013, to codify these opportunities as Assistant and Associate Deans and the minutes from the associated COG meetings were distributed. These opportunities were intended to support the Deans to investigate and/or address strategic priorities. COG recognized how they could be beneficial to the participating faculty members. Prof. Spanagel recalled how FAP discussions in February 2014 had called attention to the marginal (but nonzero) cost to WPI of appointing Assistant Deans. Prof. Gaudette expressed concern at the growing number of faculty and non-faculty administrators. Formalizing and including these opportunities within the Faculty Handbook requires details on implementation, such as the processes for proposing and approving initiatives and for approving individual appointments, time limits on appointments, expectations for accountability to the WPI Faculty, and other considerations. Prof. Dominko has invited the Academic Deans (including Undergraduate and Graduate Deans) and the VP for Research to attend upcoming COG meetings to participate in the discussion on moving these opportunities forward to the Faculty.
6. Preliminary discussion of slate for Board of Trustees Appointments
The committee reviewed the TTT faculty members serving on the five committees of the Board Trustees and the upcoming vacancies. Two names for each vacancy must be submitted to the Board, and the Board will make its appointments from this slate of nominees. A preliminary list of nominees was drafted, considering faculty members with current or previous service on the standing Committees of the Faculty. The individual faculty members will be contacted to determine each nominee's willingness to serve.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully,
Len Albano, Secretary