

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #9 (2016-17)
Monday, October 31st, 2016, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Members in Attendance: Leonard Albano, Provost Bruce Bursten, Tanja Dominko (Chair), Glenn Gaudette, Eleanor Loiacono, Mark Richman, Elizabeth Ryder (Secretary), Suzanne Weekes

Invited Guests: Prof. Bogdan Vernescu, Vice Provost of Research, Jon Bartelson – Assistant VP and Chief Compliance Officer, and Gabe Johnson, Associate Director Post-Award & Compliance

1. Meeting called to order at 11:32.
2. The proposed agenda was re-ordered slightly to accommodate the schedules of the invited guests.
3. Announcements

The Board of Trustees meets this week.

Prof. Gaudette asked for an update on the PCard situation. The problem has been compounded by e-procurement. Having to get approval for purchases over \$1000 is delaying research. This is also a problem for booking travel, which often occurs after business hours. The Provost commented that the case for STARS as presented last year at a Department Heads meeting was well received, and that feedback on problems with implementation should be given to FAP.

4. The minutes from meeting #8 (October 24th) were approved as amended.
5. Update on the Motion to change COAP membership, roles and responsibilities and recusal policy.

COG discussed COAP's response to the changes in the motion. There are still some areas of disagreement. In order to go into effect for the next academic year, the motion would need to be discussed at the November Faculty meeting and voted on in December. Prof. Dominko will submit a revised version to COAP for their consideration at their meeting on Wednesday.

6. Review of the Revised Policy on Financial Conflict of Interest [Prof. Bogdan Vernescu (Vice Provost of Research), Jon Bartelson (Assistant VP and Chief Compliance Officer) and Gabe Johnson (Associate Director, Post-Award & Compliance)]

Prof. Vernescu pointed out the changes that were made to the policy in response to the feedback COG gave at its previous meeting.

Faculty and exempt staff (including post-doctoral fellows) are covered by this policy. Members of the administration would have to comply with both this policy and a separate Board of Trustees Conflict of Interest Policy. There was discussion of whether technicians and graduate students are 'responsible' for sponsored research and thus should be covered. If taken too far, every MQP student would have to fill out COI paperwork. Gabe Johnson recommends leaving it up to the PI to decide who is 'responsible' and needs to fill out paperwork.

There was discussion of whether the policy covers research sponsored by foundations. This depends on whether the support is recorded as a 'gift' or a 'grant'. Typically, money supporting laboratory research is considered a grant. Many foundations follow the same disclosure procedure as NIH. It was recommended that the policy include a list of all common sources of sponsored research funding that would be covered under this policy.

The proposed membership of the Conflict Management Committee was discussed. Since virtually all of the cases brought before the committee involve a faculty member, all agreed that it should continue to be chaired by a faculty member.

COG suggested adding a definition of "sponsored research", as well as clarifications to the policy on travel.

The policy will be revised, brought to the faculty for feedback, and presented to the Board of Trustees at their spring meeting.

Prof. Gaudette left at 12:45.

7. COAP recommendation to appoint a Working Group on Promotion.
There was discussion of the charge of the Working Group. COAP suggested that it should consider promotion procedures for TTT faculty, as well as both criteria and procedures for NTT faculty. Some COG members felt it would be better to focus on TTT procedures, and consider NTT criteria and procedures separately. Others felt this could be done by subcommittees within the Working Group.

One concern was that, as currently worded, the charge of the Working Group includes work already well underway by COG and COAP. In the interest of moving forward, COG selected Prof. Albano and Prof. Ryder to serve on the ad hoc committee that will nominate members of the Working Group, with the understanding that the nominating committee will first clarify the charge of the Working Group to avoid duplication of work already underway.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Ryder

