Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #1: August 28, 2018
Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (CEE); Kris Boudreau (HUA); Bruce Bursten (Provost, CH); Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT); Mike Elmes (FBS); Mark Richman (ME); Sue Roberts (ChE); David Spanagel (Chair, HUA)

1. Prof. Spanagel called the meeting to order at 11:05am; the agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Prof. Richman was elected Secretary for the fall term.

3. The minutes of COG meeting #36 from June 7, 2018 were approved as distributed (with previous input from last year's COG members).

4. Update: Prof. Taylor has been appointed interim Dean of the Foisie School of Business. As a result, he has been replaced on CTAF by Prof. Furlong for the 2018-19 academic year. Prof. Furlong was the next runner-up in the spring 2018 CTAF election.

5. Faculty Appointees to Board of Trustees' (BoT) Committees: There is currently one faculty vacancy on each of five BoT committees (Academic Planning; Budget and Finance; Facilities and Infrastructure; Student Affairs; and Economic Development). Each vacancy is to be filled for a three-year term (2018-2021). COG reviewed a slate of nominees who had agreed to have their names forwarded to the BoT pending COG approval. COG formally approved two nominees for each BoT committee. Prof. Dominko will forward their names, the BoT committee to which each has been nominated, and their written statements of interest to the BoT so that the Board may select one of the two COG nominees for each committee.

6. COG needs to make the following appointments to the following committees:

   • Fringe Benefits Committee (1 TTT for 3-year term; 1 NTT for 2-year term)
   • Committee on Information Technology Policy (1 faculty member for 3-year term)
   • Conflict Management Committee (1 faculty member; 1 faculty member alternate; for 1-year terms each)
   • Educational Development Council (1 faculty member for 1-year term)

   COG identified several faculty members appropriate for each position. Prof. Spanagel will contact them to determine their availability and willingness to serve.

7. COG agenda items for 2018-2019: COG made a preliminary list of several items that will be on its agenda this year:
   • *Report on WPI's Academic Administrative Structure:* Provost Bursten has prepared this report, which was originally requested by COG in fall 2016. The committee suggested that the Provost share a draft of the report with COG to incorporate its input before the draft is finalized.

- *Faculty Advocacy and Mentoring Expansion (FAME)* P*roposal:* Based in large part on suggestions made by COAP and COG last year along with broader feedback from presentations at faculty meetings, the Working Group on Promotion made considerable revisions to its proposal to establish a mentoring system for mid-career WPI faculty members. The topic has already been discussed at two faculty meetings last year so that with final COG approval it is expected that a final proposal can be considered at a faculty meeting early this fall.
- *Status of NTT Faculty Members*: In response to much constructive feedback received from the community, Prof. Dominko will assemble a task force to explore the broad range of issues and approaches related to the current status of NTTs on campus. She has already begun to have discussions and solicit interest across campus.
- *Undersupply of TTT Faculty*: COG will continue to discuss strategies to maintain a properly balanced and constituted faculty given ongoing trends in hiring, attrition, and enrollment.
- *Global Impact Division (GID)*: Prof. Spanagel will obtain the latest version of the proposal for the GID (and any other related documents) from the GID advisory group for COG review. COG's intention is to provide critical feedback to the sponsors of the proposal.
- *Faculty Conduct Policy*: A working group of faculty members (Profs. Boudreau, Dominko, Gaudette, and Richman) and trustees (Marni Hall, Jack Mollen, and Joan Szkutak), with advice from University Counsel Bunis, is beginning to meet to revise the current faculty conduct policy. Drafts of the policy will be brought to COG for its input as the policy evolves.
- *Faculty Leadership Opportunities*: The committee agreed that formal training should be made available to faculty members interested in pursuing administrative leadership opportunities. The Provost indicated that opportunities are being created and will be made available to selected faculty members. Prof. Richman pointed out that the faculty governance structure has ready-made opportunities for leadership. The Secretary of the Faculty and committee Chairs are leaders of important elements of our campus and academic enterprise. Prof. Spanagel pointed out that all academic leaders inevitably need to preside effectively over difficult conversations.

8. The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Richman
Secretary, COG