

## Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #10: November 18, 2019

Mid- Century Room

Present: Kris Boudreau (Secretary of COG, HUA), Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT), Tahar El-Korchi (CEE), Glenn Gaudette (Chair of COG, BME), Arne Gericke (CBC), Mark Richman (ME).

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 11:36; an amended agenda was approved.
2. The minutes from meeting #9 were tried on and approved with alterations that will be ready next Monday.
3. Review of JCC: Professors Dominko and Gaudette updated COG on the progress made this year on the Joint Coordinating Council (JCC). The JCC is “intended to assist the President in fulfilling their key role as facilitator of collaboration and communication between the Board, administration, and faculty,” and has met at least monthly since August. One stated item on the JCC agenda is to increase the academic expertise on the Board of Trustees. To that end, faculty are invited to suggest to the Board promising nominees who have strong academic expertise. Suggestions should be sent either to COG or to President Leshin, or may be stuffed anonymously into the suggestion box outside the Faculty Governance Office —just without the usual hurtful comments.

Professors Dominko and Gaudette reviewed some of the topics being discussed at the JCC, including faculty reviews of administrators . COG members asked whether there was disagreement among the JCC about the responsibilities of faculty governance and administration in this area. The administrative view is that the faculty should not be reviewing administrators unless the evaluation can be included in the overall 360 evaluation. Some COG members recalled that last year, the Provost conveyed to COG the willingness of the VP for Talent and Inclusion to include COG’s faculty evaluations in the current 360 evaluations of administrators, and to appear at a COG meeting, and thought that most members of the Management Council would also support the idea. (See the [COG minutes](#) of Meeting #20, February 14, 2019.)

JCC also briefly discussed the extent to which the faculty should be consulted on campus-wide policies, including those affecting Information Technology. COG asked that Profs. Dominko and Gaudette represent the faculty view (as stated in the Faculty Handbook) that “the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP) is a permanent subcommittee of COG that shall have purview over all Information Technology policies, procedures, and practices that affect WPI’s academic and research missions. The committee works with representatives from the Information Technology Services (ITS) division and other departments, as needed, on all matters related to computing at WPI.”

COG reviewed the progress of the JCC toward its stated purpose of facilitating “collaboration and communication” between the Board, administration, and faculty. Professors Dominko and Gaudette reported that the JCC has afforded them opportunities to understand the positions of the administration. COG reiterated that the JCC’s role, articulated in the AAUP’s Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities as noted in last spring’s BGWG report, is to help “ensure that faculty views, including dissenting views, are presented to the board in those areas and on those issues where responsibilities are shared” and to ensure that the faculty are “informed of the views of the board and the administration on like issues.” The point was made that the formation of the JCC in no way alters the structure and functions of the faculty governance system.

4. COG discussed in general terms the ongoing WPI Forward rebudgeting process by which an additional \$10M will be devoted to financial aid next year. COG members still did not fully understand the basis for the \$10M goal and whether, if the goal was met, it is anticipated that additional rebudgeting would be needed for further increases in financial aid in subsequent years. In any case, the consensus among COG members was that the WPI Forward team should reallocate resources in a manner consistent with and in support of the mission of the University.
  
5. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Boudreau  
Secretary, COG