

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #11: November 25, 2019

Mid-Century Room

Present: Kris Boudreau (Secretary of COG, HUA), Tahar El-Korchi (CEE), Glenn Gaudette (BME), Arne Gericke (CBC), Mark Richman (ME), Sue Roberts (ChE, by phone), and Wole Soboyejo (Provost).

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 11:42; an amended agenda was approved.
2. The minutes from meeting #10 were reviewed and found to be too confusing.
3. COG reviewed a revised IT policy submitted by the Committee on Information Technology (CITP). In particular, COG members were troubled by the revised policy's silence on employees' use of WPI computing facilities for business purposes unrelated to their work for WPI. (An earlier version of the policy, indicating that employees could be terminated for using "computing facilities for private business or political purposes or private gain," was found too restrictive for faculty who do consulting or who teach political content.) COG members thought that the proposed policy should offer some restrictions on using WPI facilities for private gain. Some members referred to past practices where faculty using WPI resources for outside work would reimburse the university. COG members are interested in finding a middle ground between outright prohibition and a *laissez-faire* approach. Prof. Gaudette will return the proposal to CITP for further revisions.
4. COG discussed the recent reorganization of Academic Affairs and other WPI units. Regarding Academic Affairs, Provost Soboyejo explained new changes that bring online education into the Provost's operation and Graduate Admissions and Graduate Marketing into the Graduate Dean's operation. The Provost laid out the vision of a two-part structure of Corporate and Professional Education (CPE), whereby the educational components will be overseen by academics and the business components will be overseen by the marketing staff in CPE. A discussion followed regarding both leadership opportunities for faculty that might arise as a result of the reorganization, and general concerns about leadership and feelings of low morale and anxiety among both faculty and staff.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Boudreau
Secretary, COG