

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #13: January 17, 2023

Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Present: Len Albano (Chair, CEAE), Althea Danielski (HUA), George Heineman (CS), Art Heinricher (Interim Provost), Suzanne LePage (CEAE), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE), Diane Strong (President's appointment, WBS), Karen Troy (BME).

1. Chair Albano called the meeting to order at 2:10pm.

2. Update on Faculty Meetings

Prof. Richman announced changes to the schedule of Faculty meetings in C and D term to reduce obstacles to faculty attendance. The January meeting has been moved to February 2nd and a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday March 6th at 10AM after the end of C term to a time when there may be fewer family- and teaching-related conflicts. These shifts required setting a new faculty meeting schedule for the spring. Remaining meetings for D term are on Wednesday March 29th, Tuesday April 18th, and Tuesday May 9th at the conclusion of D term.

Possible agenda items for the February meeting include a final motion on the WPI sustainability and climate initiative to be presented by Professor Strauss (Global School), a revised Security Camera Policy, the annual faculty populations report and an introduction to the reorganization of the Faculty Handbook.

3. Faculty Elections to COAP, COG and CTAF

This term the Secretary of the Faculty will conduct elections for COAP, COG, and CTAF. As established last year, there will be two nominating ballots for COG (one for tenured and tenure-track faculty and one for non-tenured faculty), and faculty members may select up to ten names from each list. The final election ballot will consist of the names of the faculty members receiving the largest number of nominations in each group who are willing to serve. Ballots for CTAF/COAP will allow Faculty to nominate up to one faculty member per department; once tabulated, the final ballot will list the faculty members in each department that received the most votes in their departments and are willing to serve.

The goal is to ensure the widest range of representation in diversity, departments, and faculty positions. All faculty will have the opportunity to vote for all candidates. As detailed in Faculty handbook, by the end of C term COG will assemble ballots for all other committees; faculty members will make a final vote on these ballots in D term.

A proposal was made to have presentation at a Faculty meeting for committee Chairs to briefly introduce what each committee does to generate interest and provide information to those interested in serving.

4. Definitions and search processes for Academic Administrators.

This discussion is timely because a search committee will be formed for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Art Heinricher, currently serving as Interim Provost, will not return to this position later this year. The nine-member search committee, as outlined in the Faculty handbook, will consist of three elected faculty, two students, a faculty member appointed by Provost, a faculty member appointed by COG, and two appointees from the President. The appointments to the committee are made in collaboration between COG, the Provost, and the President.

Chair Albano shared a document that defines the search processes for Academic Administrators taken from the Faculty Handbook.

5. After mistaking the starting time of the C term meetings, Secretary Heineman joined the committee and shared copies of the minutes from COG Meeting #13, which were then approved. COG thanks Professor Troy for completing minutes for the first hour of the meeting.

6. Reorganization of Faculty Handbook

At COG's suggestion, Prof. Richman hopes to briefly present an overview of the process involved in reorganizing and revising the Faculty Handbook at the February 2nd Faculty meeting. This will be done in advance of disseminating a draft of the reorganized Handbook to the whole faculty with plenty of time for review and comments.

The overall goal of the project is to reorganize the handbook so that it is much more user-friendly, while making few substantive changes unless those changes are consistent with current practices that are not reflected in the current handbook.

7. Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy

Chair Albano and Secretary Heineman will meet early next week with OGC to discuss the status of COG's review of the Interim Policy and to request additional information.

8. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Heineman
Secretary