

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #15: January 24, 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 2:06 pm. Agenda approved as distributed, with expectation that the meeting would pause once President-elect Grace Wang visits the Committee.
2. Update on Faculty Meetings
Prof. Richman listed items for the February meeting including the final resolution “Divesting, Investing, and Transforming for Carbon Neutrality: Accountability in Energy Systems, Climate Action, and Sustainability at WPI.” to be presented by Professor Strauss (DIGS), the faculty populations report (to be presented by Chair Albano) and updates on the reorganized Faculty Handbook.
3. Definitions and search processes for Academic Administrators.
COG continued to discuss the hiring process for Academic Administrators which was initiated last academic year. COG discussed a number of aspects of these positions, including establishing guidelines regarding the duration of an appointment and guidelines and criteria for adding or removing an academic administrative position.

COG considered requiring rationale when creating a new or removing an existing academic administrative position. Sometimes it is clear that a position is needed but the process that filled the position wasn’t transparent. COG still seeks to clarify distinctions between paths for leadership development of faculty and such administrative positions.
4. Visit by President-elect Grace Wang
President-elect Wang was able to visit COG. After introductions, COG members enjoyed a wide-ranging discussion with President-elect Wang on WPI and her experiences with shared governance.
5. Reorganization of Faculty Handbook
Prof. Richman shared a fully color-coded version of the four sections of the reorganized Faculty handbook: Governance, Academic Appointments, Tenure, and Promotion.
6. Meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Heineman
Secretary