

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #17: February 7, 2023

Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Present: Len Albano (Chair, CEAE), Althea Danielski (HUA), George Heineman (CS), 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 2:04 pm.
2. Minutes were discussed and approved with minor changes.
3. Debrief of Faculty Meetings

There were three major topics from the meeting:

 - a. Second annual report on WPI Faculty populations – Based on questions asked at the faculty meeting and by the Committee Chairs several days earlier, COG discussed whether it would be useful to report some information about credits delivered. In addition, although the goals stated in the faculty handbook with respect to faculty populations do not account for adjunct teaching faculty, COG noted that adjunct usage varies by department and by school.
 - b. Organization of and Revisions to Faculty Handbook – Prof. Danielski reports that the Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF) will review portions of the reorganized Faculty handbook. COG will ask standing committees to review their charge as listed in the handbook and offer suggested changes based on historical experience.
 - c. Faculty resolution on Accountability in Energy Systems, Climate Action, and Sustainability at WPI – COG further discussed issues raised in the meeting.
4. Reorganization of Faculty Handbook

Prof. Richman will send revised handbook to COG prior to sharing with the community.
5. Definitions and search processes for Academic Administrators

COG discussed student participation in the 5-member search committees for academic administrators designated as associate or assistant. One proposal is for the search committee to include four faculty members and 1 student. COG wondered whether mandating student membership in these committees would be seen as a burden and suggested that these committees might instead explicitly seek out student input.

Regarding the elected faculty members who would serve on these search committees, COG discussed whether to replace the nomination process with a period during which faculty would volunteer to serve.
6. Update on Ballot Preparation

The Secretary of the Faculty is preparing the nominating ballots for COAP, COG, and CTAF, and in D-term, COG will prepare the election ballots for the remaining faculty

governance committees. The Committee discussed continuing the practice of not including academic administrators on these ballots. It was noted that members from the administration already participate in many standing committees (either as *ex officio* or by appointment). There was also some discussion on balancing between serving within the academic administration and serving on faculty governance. The strong preference was to maintain the current practice.

7. Meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Heineman
Secretary