

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #22: March 21, 2023
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225
1:00pm – 2:30pm

Present: Len Albano (Chair, CEAE), Tanja Dominko (BBT), 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 1:08 pm and distributed the agenda.
2. Minutes for Meetings #20 and #21 were discussed and approved with changes.
3. March 30th Faculty Meeting
Prof. Richman listed two potential items for the meeting. The first is a presentation “The State of Our Black Students”, which will provide a brief overview of the academic and social struggles experienced by Black students at WPI. The report will be given by Arnold Lane, Director of WPI’s Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME). The second is a high-level overview on the “Governance” and “Academic Appointments” chapters of the draft reorganized faculty handbook.
4. Faculty Elections
Election ballots for COG, CTAF and COAP are now available, with response requested by Tuesday March 28th at 5PM. Follow-up work for COG include reaching out to Faculty to see who would be willing to serve on the remaining standing committees. These standing committees conduct the work of the Faculty and all Faculty benefit from the service of those who are elected to serve.
5. Reorganization of Faculty Handbook
Interim President Sobojeyo formed a reading group including members from the Office of General Counsel (OGC), the Provost’s office, the Secretary of the Faculty and the COG Chair and Secretary. This group meets weekly to compare the reorganized Faculty handbook with the original Handbook.
6. Draft Documents on President’s and Provost’s Fellowships.
Prof. Dominko summarized the effort which has been in consideration in COG over multiple years, since the project was initiated in 2019. One distinction is that Presidential Fellows might support non-academic activities (e.g., finance, advancement) whereas Provost Fellows would remain oriented around academic activities (e.g., teaching, research). To minimize the impact on individual departments, the selection of Fellows should be completed in sufficient time to allow departments to adjust and reallocate resources.

COG discussed replacing the nature and percent time commitment of an appointment with clear specifications, such as the number of course releases and whether a summer

stipend would be included. Additionally, should these fellowships be considered an achievement to be publicized and visible outside of WPI?

7. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George Heineman
Secretary