

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #23: March 28, 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 2:03.
2. Minutes for Meeting #22 were discussed and approved with changes.
3. Faculty Elections
Prof. Richman will distribute results of all COG, CTAF, and COAP elections once all are resolved (there remains one final ballot for the tenured/tenure-track COG slot).
4. Leadership Transition
President-elect Grace Wang will join the university on Monday April 3rd. Prof. Soboyejo will resume his position as provost. Prof. Heinricher will continue on some work in progress to support Provost Soboyejo. Prof. Heinricher will also continue working with the reading group meeting weekly regarding the reorganized Faculty handbook.

COG looks forward to the WPI provost joining COG again as an *ex officio* member, and Prof. Heinricher will attend COG meetings as a non-voting guest for the remainder of D term.

5. 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 an overview on the “Governance” and “Academic Appointments” chapters of the draft reorganized Faculty Handbook. These presentations will give details on the composition and mapping of these two chapters.

Any motion on the reorganized Faculty Handbook will need to be shared for discussion at the April 18th faculty meeting (with two weeks’ notice on April 4th).

6. Reorganization of Faculty Handbook.
Representatives of COG (Prof. Albano and Prof. Heineman) have met with representatives of COAP (Prof. Skorinko and Prof. Strauss) to discuss the relevant “Promotions” section of the reorganized Faculty Handbook.

7. Draft on President's and Provost's Fellowships.

WPI has well-defined Education Development Council (EDC) and Research Development Council (RDC), so it may be fruitful to consider a Leadership Development Council (LDC), perhaps with similar budgetary structure. Whereas EDC and RDC focuses on what a faculty member wants to do, LDC could advertise specific projects for selection, together with options for individual faculty members to pitch projects.

Prof. Richman and Prof. Albano will bring the concept of a LDC to an upcoming meeting of the Joint Coordinating Council (JCC) for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

George Heineman
Secretary