

**Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF) Meeting #21 Minutes**  
**Thursday March 16, 2023**  
**11am-12pm**

**Meeting held in person**

**Members in attendance:** Drew Brodeur (Chair, CBC), Joe Aguilar (Secretary, HUA), Izabela Stroe (PH), Suzanne LePage (CEAE), Izabela Stroe (PH)

1. **Call to order.** Chair Brodeur called the meeting to order at 11:00am.
2. **Discuss and approve minutes.** The committee approved Minutes #20 with minor changes.
3. **COG update from Suzanne and Althea.** COG has been talking about how, when things are being reorganized in the faculty handbook, logical gaps can come to light. With the reorganized handbook under review by the entire faculty, some items for larger discussion have come forward. For example, WPI's mission statement in the current faculty handbook does not match the newer mission statement developed by the Board of Trustees. However, changing that mission statement would require discussion and approval by the entire faculty, rather than simply editing as part of this reorganization.

Another question raised in an email to COG related to how scholarship is defined in the reorganized handbook. The reorganized handbook includes a heading in the Promotions section, "Definition of Scholarship used for Promotion to (full) Professor." The current handbook, however, applies this definition to the promotion to Associate as well as to Full. CTRF discussed whether this was intentional or just an oversight as a result of moving text from one section to another.

Mid-conversation, the committee invited the Secretary of Faculty into the room to better understand the reorganized handbook's definition of scholarship and who it applies to. The Secretary of Faculty clarified that the adjustment is based on WPI's current practices. Since a promotion to Associate would be concurrent with going up for tenure, then the tenure criteria would apply, so this definition becomes somewhat moot. It was also noted that this same definition of scholarship does apply to Professors of Teaching, which makes sense since the definition includes "scholarship of teaching and learning." After talking with the Secretary of Faculty, the committee had a much better understanding of how and why scholarship is defined.

4. **Discussion of draft motion for sabbaticals for TRT faculty.** The committee agreed to talk about this point at a future meeting.
5. **The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joe Aguilar**

**CTRF Secretary**