

Committee on Governance

Meeting #1: August 28, 2023

Faculty Governance Office

Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

3pm – 4:30pm

Members Present: Mark Claypool (CS), Althea Danielski (HUA), Tanja Dominko (Secretary, BBT), George Heineman (Chair, CS), Stephen Kmiotek (ChE), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE), Wole Soboyejo (Provost), Diane Strong (WBS), Karen Troy (BME).

1. The agenda was approved as distributed.
2. Update on President's appointments to faculty governance committees:
Consistent with COG's role (as described in the Faculty Handbook, Bylaw Five, Section II) to collaborate with the President on a Presidential faculty appointment to COG to balance the committee's membership, COG approved the appointment of Prof. Diane Strong (WSB) for a one-year term.

Kris Sullivan has been appointed by the President to serve on FAP this year.

Craig Wills (for a three-year term) and Michelle Ephraim (for a one-year term) have been appointed by the President to serve on FRC.

3. Update on First Faculty Meeting, Thursday August 31, 2023:
Prof. Richman reviewed the agenda for the first faculty meeting of the year. In addition to approving undergraduate and graduate student graduation lists, we will recognize and introduce over 40 new faculty members who have joined the WPI community, in addition to recognizing the most recent cohort of 13 teaching faculty who have been placed on the teaching track to tenure as professors of teaching as of July 1, 2023. The brief self-introduction of new colleagues is an important tradition at WPI and provides a warm communal setting to welcome new colleagues in person.
4. Review of COG appointments to various committees:
 - a. COG re-appointed Prof. Scarlata (CBC) as Chair and Prof. Tao (CEAE) as an alternate on the Conflict Management Committee for AY 2023-24.
 - b. COG appointed Prof. Stabile (MME) and Prof. Stanlick (DIGS) as its representatives to the Fringe Benefits Committee for AY 2023-24.
 - c. COG appointment to FAP will be made at a future meeting.
5. Review of Provost's appointments to faculty governance committees:
Bylaw Five of the Faculty Handbook requires that the Provost's appointments to CAO, CAP, CASL, and UOAC as representatives of the Academic Administration be made with COG review and concurrence on a case-by-case basis. COG suggested that these appointments provide a mechanism to balance participation on various committees and enable broader shared communication between various members of the academic

administration and faculty. In this spirit, COG will review the Provost's nominations and vote on the final nominees to committees in time for the second COG meeting of the year.

The Provost appointed Prof. Rodica Neamtu (CS) to CITP.

COG has asked for undergraduate and graduate student nominees for faculty committees and award committees be forwarded to COG by Dean Snoddy. This year, as a result of last year's discussions with Arnold Lane (Director, ODIME), a careful effort is being made to ensure that the student membership include appropriate representation of under-represented groups.

6. Prof. Heineman and Prof. Richman acknowledged the Provost's support for the reorganization of the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty's strong support and adoption of the new document at the May 2023 faculty meeting and approval by the Board of Trustees at their May 2023 meeting comprised a community acknowledgement of the concerted year-long work by faculty governance on the project and of the effective teamwork and collaboration between faculty governance, the administration, and the Board of Trustees.
7. Reviewing roles, responsibilities, membership of Standing Committees:
Chair Heineman reviewed the Bylaw Two, Section I (paragraph 5), which requires that faculty governance committees should review the description of their roles, responsibilities, and membership every three years. For COG, recommendations for changes in these descriptions should reflect the need within faculty governance for informed discussion of campus-wide issues, broad representation of views and ideas, and clarification of the need for the faculty to solidify its involvement in matters that affect our academic programs, faculty, and students.
8. Topics for COG 2023-2024 discussion and action:
Prof. Heineman outlined a possible list of topics for COG discussion and action this year. The committee will prioritize the topics to reflect urgency and timelines required for development of faculty governance recommendations.
9. The meeting was adjourned 4:33pm.

Respectfully,
Tanja Dominko
COG Secretary