

**Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF) Meeting #6 Draft Minutes**  
**Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**3pm-4pm**

**Meeting held on Zoom**

**Members in attendance:** Drew Brodeur (Chair, CBC), Joe Aguilar (Secretary, HUA), Izabela Stroe (PH), Althea Danielski (HUA), Steve Kmiotek (CHE)

1. **Minutes editing and approval.** The minutes from last week were very brief, so any important data will be folded into today's minutes.
2. **Weekly COG update from members Danielski and Kmiotek.** As part of the Provost search committee, COG needs to appoint two WPI students who would serve as good representatives of the student body, one grad student and one undergrad student. If WPI colleagues have any nominees in mind, please contact CTRF members Danielski and Kmiotek.

Committee Member Danielski discussed how COG is also helping to facilitate the election of three faculty to serve on the Provost search committee. It's a wide-open election, and every full-time faculty member's name will be on the ballot. CTRF will send out an email ahead of time to the TRT mailing list to encourage everyone to vote.

3. **Chrys Demetry's email regarding teaching professors and helpful resources.** Chrys Demetry sent CTRF a helpful email reminding the Committee of resources available for teaching professors to consult regarding promotion and the "hidden curriculum." This Committee will keep these resources in mind going forward and continue to share them with colleagues as they prepare for promotions. Further, Chrys Demetry wanted to encourage peer mentoring in this group in addition to reminding people about resources available.

Relatedly, the Committee discussed contacting CTAF to collect sample tenure portfolios (with candidates' permission, of course) to help future TPT candidates while preparing their own materials.

4. **Updated faculty numbers and sabbatical implementation plans.** Chair Brodeur walked the Committee through updated data from the Provost's office around sabbatical eligibility for secured faculty along with any associated potential costs for sabbaticals. The additional costs appear to be quite small at this time. Chair Brodeur also suggested potential implementation plans for rolling out sabbaticals.
5. **Possible questions to ask Provost candidates during the search.** CTRF proposed several questions to consider asking candidates during interviews, including: 1) What's their experience with tenure cases involving faculty whose area of expertise is primarily teaching and learning? 2) How would they plan to move the remaining number of secured faculty to the tenure path to reach the previously agreed upon 40%? 3) How can we ensure the

academic freedom of contract faculty? 4) What experience and/or concerns may they have with working at a school with a robust (and sometimes contentious) system of shared governance? 4) What experience do they have working at a university that foregrounds project-based learning? 5) How can we better promote interdisciplinary work at WPI? 6) How do they view the core identity of WPI, and where is the institution headed? 7) How can they help make sure faculty are adequately resourced to fulfill their teaching and research goals?

6. **B-term meeting with Interim Provost Heinricher to discuss sabbaticals.** Working with the Interim Provost's availability, the Committee agreed on a meeting time of Wednesday 11/08/23 at 10am.

**The committee adjourned at 3:03 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Aguilar**

**CTRF Secretary**