

# COG Motion to Modify ByLaw Five

Discussion item

WPI Faculty Meeting

December 2017

## Bylaw Five: Secretary of the Faculty

Current wording on the Secretary of the Faculty's term of office:

The Secretary of the Faculty is elected for a term of three years, and may not serve successive terms.

Proposed modification (with text in *underlined italics* added):

The Secretary of the Faculty is elected for a term of three years, and may not serve *more than two* successive terms.

- The term of office for the Secretary of the Faculty (SOF) will not be increased to 6 years.
- The current two-stage nomination and election process for the SOF will not change.
- The motion will provide faculty members the option to consider continuity and past experience during the nomination and election process.

The SOF is a leadership position within our Faculty Governance system.

- Faculty meetings, Faculty Handbook and procedures, annual elections to governance committees, implementation and communication of faculty decisions, key contact for faculty concerns, etc.

In a leadership position, some benefits of continuity and past experience include

- Moderating the steep learning curve;
- Allowing focus on strategic thinking and planning; and
- Providing time to develop working relationships.

In addition, there are some specific areas of shared governance in which continuity and past experience of the SOF may give value

- Annual Planning and Budget Process;
- Research Misconduct Policy; and
- Faculty evaluations of administrators.

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# Contact COG Members with feedback:

Glenn Gaudette (Chair)

David Spanagel (Secretary)

Leonard Albano

Susan Roberts

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Suzanne Weekes