

## **Committee on Governance: Minutes #9**

Meeting #9: November 13, 2023

Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Zoom Link: <https://wpi.zoom.us/j/95482156236>

Members: Mark Claypool (CS), Althea Danielski (HUA), George Heineman (Chair, CS), Art Heinricher (Interim Provost), Stephen Kmiotek (ChE), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE), Diane Strong (President's appointment, WBS).

1. The agenda was approved.
2. The minutes for meeting #8 were approved as amended.
3. Review of the Faculty Meeting on November 8, 2023.

The Committee reviewed the discussion on the motion to Establish a Formal Procedure to Resolve Faculty Allegations of Academic Freedom Violations. It was clear that had time allowed, the discussion would have continued, and the committee encourages all faculty to attend an information and discussion session about the motion on Tuesday November 21, 2023 at 11:30-1:30 in the Quorum. This session will be hosted by Prof. Claypool and Prof. Heineman, who are members of both COG and the working group that continues to work with COG on revising the motion based on feedback received.

#### 4. Report on Faculty Population

Prof. Richman reminded the committee of its responsibility to report annually on the faculty census at a faculty meeting sometime during this academic year. The committee has the data on current full-time faculty; the data on adjunct faculty members will be based of the previous academic year because the current year's numbers will in all likelihood not be known when the report is given.

Prof. Richman noted that the report is a census and does not provide information on credits delivered. The committee asked Provost Heinricher to share the information it compiles on credits delivered by department and/or program; this information could serve as useful background for the census report and could also be useful in evaluating the growth of the student population at WPI and its effect on the faculty at WPI.

#### 5. Election and Selection of members of the Provost Search Committee

Voting is currently underway to elect three faculty members for the Provost Search Committee and will conclude on November 16, 2023. COG will appoint an additional faculty member; the President will appoint three members (of which one must be a faculty member). Two students will also be appointed. COG and the President will collaborate on all appointments. The membership of the Search Committee should be finalized by December 4, 2023.

#### 6. Appointments to Faculty Governance Committees

The committee discussed the need to appoint a faculty member to serve as the Chair of the Campus Hearing Board, and to appoint a faculty member serve on the committee for the Board

of Trustees' Outstanding Teaching Award.

7. Sabbaticals for Secure Faculty

The Committee discussed the progress on the proposal for extending sabbaticals to secure teaching faculty members that is being prepared by the Committee for Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF). The Provost has not yet assured the committee that the costs of extending sabbaticals in this way has received budget approval. CTRF and COG hope to bring the proposal to the Faculty for a vote before the end of the Academic year.

8. Filling the ranks of the Professors of Teaching

The Committee noted that thirteen Professors of Teaching were appointed last year from the ranks of the secured teaching faculty, two short of the fifteen positions that were anticipated. Secretary Richman asked the Provost if there is a plan to appoint two secured faculty to these final two tenure-track positions this year. Provost Heinricher noted that there is a commitment on the part of the Administration to fill these final two positions to reach the number of 45 Professors of Teaching, and that may be done in a call for applications this year.

The Committee also noted that the commitment in the Faculty Handbook is to have 40 percent of the teaching faculty in Professor of Teaching positions (tenure or tenure-track) by August 2023. Even with the additional two appointments to this track to be made this year, the percentage of Professors of Teaching will be significantly less than 40 percent goal in the Faculty Handbook. The Committee asked the Provost to share the Administration's plans on how to reach that goal.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.

Respectfully,

Althea Danielski  
Interim Secretary