

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #14: January 11, 2024

Faculty Governance Office


Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

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

1. The agenda was approved.
2. Minutes for meeting #13 were approved as amended.
3. Selecting Secretary for C/D terms. Prof. Troy was elected as secretary for C-term. Prof. Danielski was elected as secretary for D-term.
4. Prof. Richman gave an overview of the upcoming WPI Faculty Meeting on January 17th. He highlighted the rather massive consent agenda (176 pages), which demonstrates the huge amount of work done by departments and faculty governance committees. The meeting will have two major discussions. The first is a set of motions (for discussion only) brought by CGSR that would create a mechanism for accelerated Master's degree programs in collaboration with other institutions. The second is a discussion led by CAP on maintaining a balance between academic standards and academic flexibility. In both cases, COG had some preliminary discussion about the issues that were likely to come up at the Faculty meeting.
5. Prof. Heineman suggested that Dean Snoddy be invited to a future faculty meeting to provide an overview of commencement activities at an upcoming Faculty meeting, since there are some changes this year. Although there will be many differences such as the location (DCU Center), there are several new possibilities for how activities surrounding Commencement can be a meaningful celebration for faculty, students, and their families.
6. The advertisement for the Provost's position has been widely circulated and applications are being accepted until February 16, 2024. Faculty members are encouraged to share the announcement broadly and anyone may nominate someone for the position by emailing the search at WPIProvost@wittkiewer.com. All information pertaining to the Provost search can be found here: <https://www.wpi.edu/provost-search>
7. Appointments for the committee to evaluate BoT Outstanding Teaching Award (3 yr.): COG appoints one faculty member to serve on this committee. Three potential nominees

were suggested. Prof. Heineman will reach out to them to identify one who is willing and able to serve.

8. Work done by the Academic Freedom Working Group was brought up for discussion. Prof. Claypool provided a brief timeline update. CTAF is currently reviewing the document crafted by the Working Group to establish a process to resolve allegations of academic freedom violations. It is expected that the final document will be presented at the February Faculty meeting. Prof. Richman suggested that the current Faculty Grievance procedure that is outlined in the Faculty Handbook (and adjudicated by the Faculty Review Committee) may be need to be modified to make it consistent with the proposed process for resolving allegations of academic freedom violations. .
9. Agenda items for the rest of C/D terms were discussed and prioritized. 
10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM

Respectfully,

Karen Troy
COG Secretary