

## **Committee on Governance: Minutes**

Meeting #15: January 18, 2024

Faculty Governance Office

Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Members Present: Mark Claypool (CS), Althea Danielski (HUA), George Heineman (Chair, CS), Stephen Kmiotek (ChE), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE), Diane Strong (President's appointment, WBS), Karen Troy (Secretary, BME). Not present: Art Heinricher (Interim Provost), Tanja Dominko (BBT),

1. The agenda was approved.
2. The minutes for meeting #14 were approved as amended.
3. Prof. Heineman announced that D-term meetings would be taking place on Mondays from 3-4:30 PM
4. COG briefly discussed last week's Faculty Meeting. We expressed appreciation for Kate Beverage's quick response to the zoom intruders. Prof. Richman noted that for all future meetings, additional security will be added to the faculty meetings to prevent this unfortunate and disturbing event from happening again. (Attached to these minutes is an email that Prof. Richman subsequently sent to the faculty (on Jan. 19) on behalf of faculty governance condemning the intrusion and describing the work being done to add security and investigate the incident.)

COG also briefly discussed the announcement from FAP about the planned informational sessions concerning the possible elimination of one of our two 403(b) retirement fund vendors (currently TIAA and Fidelity). This is a potentially impactful decision for all WPI faculty and staff, and it has not been clearly described to the community.

The presentation from CGSR by Prof. Olson (MA; Chair, CGAR) and Prof. Ruiz (CS; Assoc. Dean A&S) concerning establishing a template for Collaborative Accelerated Master's Programs (i.e. to set up CAMPs) generalized an institutional approach beyond consideration of any single particular such master's program, and if approved will in the long run save time faculty time when any such program is proposed for faculty consideration in the future.

The discussion from CAP presented by Prof. Calli (RBE; Chair, CAP) about finding the balance between providing academic flexibility and maintaining academic standards appeared to resonate with the faculty and suggests that the topic is worthy of further faculty discussion.

5. COG discussed several motions proposed by COAP. The motions address issues that had been identified last year. For example, COAP suggests that the language that describes the evaluation of Department Heads be expanded to include interim Department Heads. Several other motions involved elaborations of the promotion processes described in the Faculty Handbook, and one concerned an administrative detail in the recordkeeping of sabbaticals. COG will provide COAP with feedback on these motions and expects that several of them can be brought jointly from COAP and COG for discussion at an upcoming Faculty meeting this year.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM

Respectfully,

Karen Troy  
COG Secretary