

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #16: January 25, 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), Art Heinricher (Interim Provost), Tanja Dominko (BBT)

1. The agenda was approved.
2. The minutes for meeting #15 were approved as amended.
3. COG discussed a CTRF proposal to extend sabbatical leaves to all WPI secured teaching faculty. The rationale is that sabbatical leave is a professional development opportunity that would benefit teaching faculty, and not just those who are tenured/research active. Expanding the pool of faculty who are eligible for sabbatical leave would have an impact on the total number of faculty taking leave during a given year, and would increase the costs associated with covering the salaries and teaching loads from those individuals. Interim Provost Heinricher noted that there is not currently a budget line item for sabbatical leave and instead it becomes up to each department to determine how the costs will be covered. COG suggested that the cost estimate in the proposal be clarified and emphasized that – regardless of how the funds flow - it is important for the administration (through the Provost's Office) to commit to providing the additional funds required for the proposed extension of the sabbatical leave program. COG will provide CTRF with feedback about the proposal.
4. Interim Provost Heinricher announced that an internal search for Dean of Undergraduate Studies would take place. He shared the updated position specification to get feedback from COG. Once the document is finalized the search will follow the process that is outlined in Chapter Two, Section 6 of the Faculty Handbook (Guidelines for Searches to Fill Academic Administrative Positions).
5. COG continued its discussion of several motions proposed by COAP. COG will provide COAP with feedback and suggestions on these proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM

Respectfully,

Karen Troy
COG Secretary