

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #21: March 11, 2024
Faculty Governance Office
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Members Present: Mark Claypool (CS), Althea Danielski (Secretary, HUA), Tanja Dominko (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).

1. The agenda was approved.
2. The minutes for meetings #19 and #20 were approved as amended.
3. COG discussed the two motions concerning the procedure for academic freedom violations proposed jointly by CTAF and COG. Based on the discussion, the draft procedure was modified to add that when the Provost has a conflict of interest in the case, they will be replaced by the President.

COG discussed the definition of “relevant individuals.” The motion was changed to emphasize that relevant individuals are decided by the AFS and not the complainant.

Another question COG addressed regarding the Academic Freedom Motion is what to do with a complaint that encompasses violations of both academic freedom, as covered in the proposed Procedure for Academic Freedom Violations under CTAF, and procedural issues covered in the Faculty Grievance Procedure under FRC. COG members agreed that in such situations, each committee would have to handle the portions of the complaint that fall under their respective jurisdictions.

4. COG discussed briefly the elections for Faculty Governance, which are getting underway. The election for the next Secretary of the Faculty has already been completed, with Mark Claypool winning the most votes for that position. The next round of elections will be for COG, CTAF and COAP. The Secretary of Faculty will prepare the nominating ballot for that election soon.

Once those elections are complete, COG will hold the final round of elections, likely in mid-April. These will be for:

- Committee on Academic Policy (CAP) – 2 vacancies
- Committee on Academic Operations (CAO) – 2 vacancies
- Committee on Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) – 2 vacancies
- Committee on Financial and Administrative Policy (FAP) – 1 vacancy
- Committee on Advising and Student Life (CASL) – 2 vacancies
- Faculty Review Committee (FRC) – 2 vacancies
- Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (UOAC) – 2 vacancies
- Campus Hearing Board (CHB) – 3 vacancies

After the elections are completed, COG will have several Faculty Governance appointments to make, namely:

- CITP appointment for a three-year term
- FAP appointment for a one-year term

- CMC appointment, along with an alternate, both for a one-year term
- FBC appointment for a two-year term

To fill all these positions and maintain our robust system of shared governance at WPI, COG relies on our Faculty Members to volunteer to stand in the elections and serve on these committees. The members of COG are available to discuss service with any interested Faculty Members and will likely hold open sessions in the Quorum to meet and recruit faculty who are interested in serving. Information on these sessions will be forthcoming.

5. COG reviewed the motion for the revision of the Conflict of Interest Policy, which is handled by the Committee on Management of Conflicts (CMC). The motion describes three significant changes proposed to this policy. First, the policy needs to emphasize that all faculty must have a current Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure on file before submission of a sponsored research proposal in which they are named. Secondly, the motion will change the language in the policy to make clear that the Director of Research Integrity and Compliance is a voting member of the Committee on Management of Conflicts. Finally, the role of the General Counsel will be clearly defined as an advisory (non-voting) role.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Respectfully,

Althea Danielski
COG Secretary