Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #28: Monday April 29, 2024
Faculty Governance Office
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Members: Mark Claypool (CS), Althea Danielski (HUA, Secretary), 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. **Approval of Minutes for meeting #26 and #27:** The minutes for these meetings were amended and approved.

2. **Update from Joint Coordinating Council (JCC) Meeting:** COG Chair Heineman summarized the last JCC meeting held on April 25. There was a presentation on the many initiatives to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging at WPI. The Chair remarked on the importance of this work, which involves and impacts students, faculty and staff, and aligns with institutional goals.

   Chair Heineman also noted that the JCC was founded to allow faculty, staff, administration, and members of the Board of Trustees to engage in difficult conversations, so as to ensure clear communication between the Faculty and the Administration. The Chair expressed his hope that the JCC will focus more on the challenging and substantive topics for which it was designed. The JCC is meant to assist the President in facilitating collaboration and communication between the Board, administration, and faculty.

3. **Faculty Elections & Appointments:** Now that the elections for Faculty Governance Committees are underway, COG discussed appointments to some of these committees. These included:
   a. Faculty Representatives for three Board of Trustees Committees: Academic Planning, Facilities and Student Affairs (this will take place after commencement)
   b. The Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP)
   c. The Fringe Benefits Committee (FBC)
   d. The Conflict Management Committee (CMC)
   e. The Campus Hearing Board (CHB)

4. **COG Conflict of Interest Policy:** COG discussed a motion that will change the language in the Faculty Handbook regarding the Conflict of Interest policy. This policy refers to a “Chief Compliance Officer,” but this position has been changed to a “Designated Institutional Officer” (DIO). This motion **clarifies** who on the committee is a voting member, who this policy applies to (all faculty and exempt staff engaged in sponsored research), and when and how disclosure of a conflict of interest (or the
appearance of a conflict of interest) is required. This motion will be presented to the faculty at the start of the next academic year.

5. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully,

Althea Danielski
COG Secretary