COG Motion to Modify ByLaw
Five

Discussion item
WPI Faculty Meeting
December 2017
Bylaw Five: Secretary of the Faculty

Current wording on the Secretary of the Faculty’s term of office:

The Secretary of the Faculty is elected for a term of three years, and may not serve successive terms.

Proposed modification (with text in **underlined italics** added):

The Secretary of the Faculty is elected for a term of three years, and may not serve *more than two* successive terms.
• The term of office for the Secretary of the Faculty (SOF) will not be increased to 6 years.
• The current two-stage nomination and election process for the SOF will not change.
• The motion will provide faculty members the option to consider continuity and past experience during the nomination and election process.
The SOF is a leadership position within our Faculty Governance system.

– Faculty meetings, Faculty Handbook and procedures, annual elections to governance committees, implementation and communication of faculty decisions, key contact for faculty concerns, etc.
In a leadership position, some benefits of continuity and past experience include

• Moderating the steep learning curve;

• Allowing focus on strategic thinking and planning; and

• Providing time to develop working relationships.
In addition, there are some specific areas of shared governance in which continuity and past experience of the SOF may give value

- Annual Planning and Budget Process;
- Research Misconduct Policy; and
- Faculty evaluations of administrators.
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Contact COG Members with feedback:

Glenn Gaudette (Chair)
David Spanagel (Secretary)
Leonard Albano
Susan Roberts
Bengisu Tulu
Suzanne Weekes