

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #10: November 15, 2018
Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (CEE); Kris Boudreau (HUA); Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT); Mike Elmes (FBS); Mark Richman (Secretary, ME); Sue Roberts (ChE); David Spanagel (Chair, HUA)

1. Prof. Spanagel called the meeting to order at 12:35pm; the agenda was approved as distributed.
2. The minutes of COG meeting #9 from November 8, 2018 were approved as amended.
3. Faculty Evaluations of Administrators: According to the scheduled rotation (that changes somewhat depending on circumstances related to each administrative position) the intention this year was to conduct evaluations of Dean King (Arts and Sciences), Dean Rissmiller (IGSD), V.P. Tichenor (Enrollment and Inst. Strategy), and V.P. Flavin (Academic and Corporate Engagement). Provost Soboyejo will not be evaluated because he has just assumed his new position. As was done last year for the first time, a survey will also be distributed concerning the general status of the University. To help address concerns about the faculty's understanding of nonacademic administrative positions, if time allows at future faculty meetings this year, opportunities will be offered to V.P. Tichenor and V.P. Flavin to provide brief updates on their activities and accomplishments. At the same time, the hope is that all administrators whose work affects academic matters will find their own effective ways to communicate directly with the faculty.
4. Special Faculty Meeting and Better Shared Governance: A special faculty meeting to be held today at 3:15 pm has been requested by a petition submitted 48 hours in advance and signed by ten faculty members. The request was for a meeting in executive session. The purpose of the meeting is to air recent concerns and determine an appropriate response. The general concerns are about exclusion of faculty input in recent decisions by the President and the Board to a) change the Board's Bylaws on matters that affect the faculty and faculty governance; and b) change the mechanism by which faculty members are chosen to serve on committees of the Board. There are many specific concerns involving details within the new Bylaws. The expectation is that at least some of these specifics will be discussed at the special faculty meeting. The hope is that the President and the Board will delay the implementation of the Bylaws until the faculty has had sufficient time and has been provided with an effective means by which its input can be used to redraft certain sections of the Bylaws. The committee felt strongly that the recent actions of the President and the Board to this point have done damage to the notion of shared governance at WPI.
5. The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Richman
Secretary, COG