

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #14: December 17, 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); David Spanagel (Chair, HUA).

1. Prof. Spanagel called the meeting to order at 12:35pm; the single-item agenda was approved as described in Prof. Spanagel's 12/15 email to the committee.
2. Faculty Conduct Policy: Prof. Boudreau, Prof. Dominko, and Prof. Richman, who have been working with General Counsel Bunis on an updated Faculty Conduct Policy, reported that they met with Counsel Bunis and Provost Soboyejo on December 14 to discuss a revised version of the policy that incorporated many of the suggestions made by COG members and was discussed at length at COG's previous two meetings. Although the revised version contained many important changes, the entire 12/14 discussion with Counsel Bunis and Provost Soboyejo focused on the change that eliminated the mechanism that would break ties of the six-member Judicial Committee (consisting of three faculty members and three academic administrators) and replaced it with a rule that would simply require at least four (out of six) votes for a finding of responsibility on the part of the Respondent. Apparently, this change will not be acceptable to the Board.

After a lengthy discussion about the merits of the proposed change, why it was unacceptable to the Board, and how to break the impasse without causing further delay, COG agreed to send the draft of the policy to the faculty with the tie-breaking mechanism language restored so that input – not just on this issue but on all others, as well - could be solicited in a discussion at the January 10 faculty meeting.

COG members asked about any feedback received concerning the many other revisions made to the draft based on COG's input. Prof. Boudreau, Prof. Dominko, and Prof. Richman reported that Counsel Bunis so far had focused only on the change related to ties votes of the Judicial Committee. COG members expressed their sincere hope that the Board would recognize COG's flexibility in this matter and that there would be no other such impasses to confront.

3. The meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Richman
Secretary, COG