

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #7: October 9, 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); Wole Soboyejo (Provost); David Spanagel (Chair, HUA)

1. Prof. Spanagel called the meeting to order at 11:05am; the agenda was approved as amended.

2. The minutes of COG meeting #6 from October 2, 2018 were approved as amended.

3. Updates:

- *Task Force to Address Status of Non-Tenure Track Faculty:* In her role as Secretary of the Faculty, Prof. Dominko has convened a task force to address issues concerning the status of the NTT faculty at WPI. Prof. Dominko and Prof. Heilman (CBC) have selected the following members to serve on the task force: Prof. Boudreau (HUA); Prof. Butler (BME); Prof. Elmes (FSB); Prof. Dougherty (CS); Prof. Heilman (CBC); Prof. Medich (PH); Prof. Pfeifer (IGSD); Prof. Richman (ME); Prof. Wodin-Schwartz (ME); and Prof. Wulf (FSB). The task force will begin meeting formally in B-term. Three of the task force members are also members of COG, which will make it easy to update COG on the progress of the task force and to raise issues with and solicit input from COG before any formal recommendations are made by the task force.
- *Faculty Conduct Policy:* Prof. Boudreau, Prof. Richman, and Prof. Dominko have been meeting regularly with University Counsel Bunis throughout A-term to revise the WPI Faculty Conduct Policy. Revisions are focused on simplifying and clarifying the current policy while maintaining fairness to all parties concerned. Provost Soboyejo emphasized the importance of faculty participation in the early stages of assessing an allegation of misconduct. He also emphasized the benefits of final assessments made jointly by members of both faculty and administration members.

4. Status of the Proposal to Form a New Academic Global Unit: The committee discussed feedback that individual members of COG had received concerning the idea of a global academic unit following the October 4 faculty meeting.

Issues that were raised from this feedback included:

- the need for the faculty to have sufficient time to evaluate a full proposal;
- the need for a well thought-out proposal to attract a well-qualified Dean;
- the importance of evaluating the unit through the filters of need, approach, benefits, and competition;
- the need to include in the proposal clear mechanisms to ensure that time invested by faculty members in developing the unit will not leave their current responsibilities unmet;
- the importance of having current IGSD members continue to contribute as issues related to developing the unit arise; and
- the proper placement of global “hubs” within the unit;

Provost Soboyejo suggested that there should be three phases in realizing the new global unit:

- socialization of the idea (Sep.-Dec.) when input is received and digested;
- collective development of the idea (Jan.-Aug.) when stakeholders are involved in considering undergraduate and graduate programs and governance issues; and

- transition to operation (beyond Aug.) when new programs are put in place with care given to considering their effects on existing programs and the existing university structures.
5. Faculty Evaluations of Administrators: COG will begin the process of revising this year's surveys, as needed. The format of and questions in the surveys were updated two years ago and the cycle of those administrators who were evaluated at that time is scheduled to be repeated this year. As a result, the expectations are that it will be fairly straightforward to get input from the administrators to be evaluated this year and that their suggested updates to the questions should be relatively minor.
 6. The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Richman
Secretary, COG