

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #9: November 8, 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 12:35pm; the agenda was approved as distributed.
2. The minutes of COG meeting #8 from October 25, 2018 were approved as distributed.
3. Update on the Proposal to Change the Name of the Biology and Biotechnology (BBT) Department: In order to obtain more input from other departments, the BBT Department has decided to withdraw their motion (from the agenda of the November 8 faculty meeting) to change its name to the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Department. The expectation is that the motion will be placed on the agenda of a future faculty meeting.
4. Update from CITP concerning Workday: Members of the Committee on Information Technology and Policy (CITP) will attend COG's November 29 meeting for the purpose of discussing the status of the Workday implementation so far. COG members were encouraged to formulate their questions in advance of that meeting.

CITP is planning to send out a survey to the WPI community to collect feedback about Workday and its implementation to date. Concern was raised about the current plan, which seems to be that the survey would not be anonymized. A motion was made to recommend that the survey be conducted in a manner that allowed the respondents to choose whether or not to identify themselves. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Faculty Evaluations of Administrators: President Leshin has indicated that she would like COG to suspend the faculty evaluations of administrators this year for the purpose of redesigning the survey to produce more useful results. Several possible adjustments to the surveys were discussed that could be put in place to conduct the scheduled surveys this year while simultaneously engaging the President in discussions about her concerns. Provost Soboyejo emphasized the importance of conducting the surveys with great care. The committee discussed concerns that the faculty does not have sufficient insight into the activities of the administrators to provide constructive input. COG reviewed the steps that have been taken every year in the past six years to ensure that the questions asked were aligned with the job responsibilities of the individual administrators, to revise the questions as job responsibilities evolved, and to obtain input and approval from each administrator evaluated. Every year, the current evaluation process also includes a standing offer by the Secretary of the Faculty and the Chair of COG to meet with any administrator who has been evaluated and to meet with the Chair of the Board of Trustees to discuss the results. Some frustration was expressed over the fact that neither the President nor the Chair of the Board was willing to participate in such meetings after last year's evaluations.
6. The Provost's Proposal for a Global School: The Provost has provided COG with a more detailed proposal for the Global School. Questions were raised concerning the following issues:
 - a. the meaning of the "affiliated" faculty appointments in the school; the distinction between primary affiliations and other types; the meaning of "transfers" into the school;

- b. whether the structure of the school will include distinct departments and/or programs, and whether the tenure process is clear for faculty within the school;
- c. whether the vision for the school is too narrow, as currently proposed.

Discussion began about the proposed budget for the school, whether it could be itemized more specifically, and how projected revenues were calculated. Concern was also raised about whether the decision to establish the school and hire a Dean had already been made by the administration and the Board.

The intention is to continue the discussion about the proposal at COG's next meeting.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Richman
Secretary, COG