

Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes

Meeting #15: 6 December 2021

Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (Secretary, CEE); Nancy Burnham (PH); Tahar El-Korchi (Chair, CEE); George Heineman (CS); Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE); Susan Roberts (CHE); Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

Absent: Tanja Dominko (BBT)

1. Prof. El-Korchi called the meeting to order at 11:18 am.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes of COG meeting #14 on November 29, 2021 were approved with modifications.
4. Preparations for the January Faculty Meeting:
Looking ahead to the next Faculty Meeting on January 20th, Prof. Richman anticipates that one item on the agenda will include presentation and discussion of COG's motion to revise its membership to include representation by NTT faculty. He is also planning to schedule an open discussion focusing on the challenges of academic and home life, which had been planned for the November Faculty Meeting. Prof. Richman is also anticipating that there may be time-sensitive motions submitted by faculty governance committees to improve student and campus wellbeing. For example, Prof. Richman has had some discussions with Prof. Pavlov (SSPS, CAP Chair) and Prof. Korkin (CS, CGSR Chair) to encourage the consideration of proposing Pass/Fail options for undergraduate and graduate students, similar to the COVID-related motions that were passed in Spring 2020. Prof. Heineman, who was the Chair of CAP in Spring 2020, volunteered to reach out to Prof. Pavlov.
5. Update on Faculty Review of Administrators:
Prof. Dominko, Prof. Roberts, and Prof. Heineman have reached out to the VPR, the Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, respectively, to obtain their feedback on the proposed questions for the faculty surveys. They also have the option to provide one-page statements on recent accomplishments. Responses have been received from the VPR and the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Committee is waiting on feedback from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and then the surveys will be finalized for distribution to the faculty.
6. Clarification of NTT Participation in Departmental and Programmatic Operations:
Prof. El-Korchi and Prof. Richman have been placed on the agenda for the Department Heads' Meeting on December 15th to discuss this issue. To help guide the discussion, Prof. Roberts will provide a draft presentation for COG, and this will be considered at next week's meeting.
7. Update on COG Election Procedure:
As an agenda item for next week's COG meeting, Prof. Richman will update the draft motion on the COG election procedure (introduced in Meeting #12) to include provisions that ensure NTT

representation. Following discussion of the draft motion within COG, Prof. El-Korchi and Prof. Richman will share it with the TRT Council for their feedback. The goal is to use a collaborative effort on NTT representation to bring a motion forward for discussion and faculty vote.

8. Update on Student and Campus Wellbeing:

Prof. Richman reported that Prof. Demetry (ME; Director, Morgan Teaching and Learning Center), acting on behalf of the Academics subcommittee of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force, met with faculty governance committee chairs on Tuesday, November 30th. Prof. Demetry shared some of the ideas that the Task Force has been discussing to reduce student stress and promote wellbeing, such as encouraging faculty to be flexible with assignments and deadlines, and establishing training programs to identify students in distress. Provost Soboyejo stated that the report of the Task Force is expected on December 15th, and he will direct policy issues to the proper faculty governance committees for their consideration and action. He is hopeful that the faculty will be able to implement short-term changes in time for the spring semester. The Provost also indicated that he has been in discussions with the Chief Financial Officer on the financial aspects of granting students tuition credits or free summer classes to repeat courses in which they had received an NR.

9. Update on COG Appointment to the Selection Committee for the Trustees' Award for Outstanding Teaching:

Prof. El-Korchi is continuing to work with the chairs of CAP, CASL, and CGSR to identify a slate of nominees for COG to consider.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano
Secretary, COG