

## Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes

Meeting #17: 6 January 2022

Faculty Governance Branch Offices

**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 3:07 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes of COG meeting #16 on December 13, 2021 were approved with modifications.
4. Preparations for the January Faculty Meeting:  
Prof. Richman reported that he is considering three significant items for the Faculty Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, depending on the available time and other factors. First, he is hopeful that COG can provide an update on our efforts to modify COG's membership to ensure NTT representation. Second, the plan is to return to an open discussion on "The Challenges of Academic and Home Life" that was put off from the December Faculty Meeting due to time constraints.
5. Update on COG Election Procedure:  
Following COG meeting #16, Prof. El-Korchi and Prof. Richman shared the draft of the proposed motion with the TRT Council for their feedback. In response to the feedback from the TRT Council, COG discussed expanding opportunities for NTT representation on COG by increasing the number of elected faculty members from five to six, with two seats reserved for NTT faculty serving staggered terms, and/or establishing a subcommittee of COG with the charge to address issues of concern to NTT faculty. COG members recognized that secured NTT faculty have become part of Faculty Governance, and they must have confidence that Faculty Governance can address their issues. COG representatives will meet with the TRT Council on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the revisions further.
6. Progress Report on Faculty Review of Administrators:  
Prof. El-Korchi reported that feedback on the survey questions has been received from all of the Administrators identified for the first group of evaluations: the Chief Information Officer, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and the Vice Provost for Research. Based on feedback from Patricia Patria, VP for Information Technology and CIO, COG generalized the survey for the CIO to be about the Information Technology division broadly. The only category that is personalized specifically to the CIO is with respect to the leadership of the IT division. Prof. El-Korchi indicated that the revised survey for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies needs minor editorial updates. The intention is that all of the surveys, including the evaluation of the current status of WPI, will be distributed to the faculty early in C term. Provost Soboyejo expressed his appreciation to

COG for working with the individual Administrators to define the survey questions, and he is hopeful that the results will provide value to these individuals and the Administration.

7. Update on Re-Opening for C term:

As a follow-up to the Employee Virtual Town Hall that was held today at 2 pm, Prof. El-Korchi invited COG members to share their thoughts and preparations for re-entry for the start of C term. Provost Soboyejo commented that we are entering a period of high uncertainty with respect to the spread of the Omicron variant and the issue of student wellbeing. He requested that significant time be devoted at either the next COG meeting or a special COG meeting to discuss how Faculty Governance and faculty, in general, can be proactive in anticipating and responding to the changes that may be necessary to support our students in C and D terms. The Provost suggested that COG could look at the recommendations from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force and identify what faculty will work on. It was noted that some of the Task Force's recommendations may fall within the purview of standing faculty committees, such as CAO, CAP, CGSR, and CASL. For these ideas, COG should defer to the appropriate committee(s). Prof. El-Korchi agreed to set aside a considerable amount of time in COG's next meeting on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss these issues.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano  
Secretary, COG