

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #25: March 31, 2021

Faculty Governance Branch Offices

Present: Len Albano (CEE); Kris Boudreau (Chair, HUA); Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT); Tahar El-Korchi (CEE); Arne Gericke (CBC); Mark Richman (Secretary, AE)

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:03am after everyone complained that it was 8:03am. The agenda was approved in several languages.
2. Draft Motions for Security and Full Participation of Nontenure-track Faculty: The committee continued its discussion (from meeting #24) of a draft motion to revise Part Two, Section 7 of the Faculty Handbook (Categories of Faculty Members at WPI; Appointments, Reappointments, and Reviews; Reappointments of Professors of Practice; and Promotion Procedures for Nontenure-track Faculty Members) and a draft motion to expand the definition of the faculty and extend the responsibility for the governance of the faculty. Prof. Richman had updated these motions to incorporate the suggestions and improvements made based on the discussion at COG's previous meeting.

The proposal now includes a very preliminary implementation plan that outlines how appointment status and appointment length might be determined for our current teaching faculty members. It also includes a third motion to expand the charge of the FRC to include appeal of decisions to terminate or not to renew appointments of secured non-tenure-track faculty members on 3-year or 5-(or more)-year contracts. This additional change is required for consistency with (the proposed) Part Two, Section 8.A of the Faculty Handbook describing the grievance procedures available to nontenure-track teaching faculty. Prof. Boudreau is communicating with FRC concerning these changes.

COG agreed that the motions in their current form should be sent to the faculty for discussion at the April 8 faculty meeting. This schedule at least holds out the hope that the motions could be approved at the May 6 faculty meeting. But given the time constraints under which the proposal has been formulated, the sensibility of the committee is that the motions are very much in draft form and that the committee will be especially open to incorporating further suggestions from the community. Prof. Gericke, in particular, was assigned the task of conveying this sensibility to many of his department head colleagues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Richman
Secretary, COG