

Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes

Meeting #2: August 26, 2021

Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (Secretary, CEE); Nancy Burnham (PH); Tanja Dominko (BBT); Tahar El-Korchi (Chair, CEE); George Heineman (CS); Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE)

Absent: Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

1. Prof. El-Korchi called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes of COG meeting #1 on August 19, 2021 were approved as distributed.
4. Update on First Faculty Meeting on September 2, 2021: Prof. Richman reported that he was compiling the meeting materials, and they will be distributed to the faculty later this afternoon. The current plan is to conduct an in-person meeting. The Committee discussed the possible need to shift to a virtual meeting for health safety, and this decision will be made closer to the day, based on the data and the operating status of the WPI campus.
5. Update on Committee Appointments: Prof. El-Korchi reported that Profs. Radzicki and Aravind agreed to serve as COG's appointees to the Fringe Benefits Committee (FBC) and the Campus Hearing Board (CHB), respectively. The Committee discussed possible faculty members for the Conflict Management Committee (CMC); both a chair and an alternate faculty member are needed. Prof. El-Korchi will contact those faculty members to determine their willingness to serve.

It was noted that although faculty members are elected to the CHB, this role is not outlined in the Faculty Handbook and the composition of the CHB is not well understood. In an effort to make this information more accessible to the faculty, Prof. El-Korchi will invite Assistant VP and Dean of Students Snoddy to make a presentation at a COG meeting.

6. COG Agenda Topics for 2021-22: In continuing the discussion from Meeting #1, The Committee agreed to add three items to the list of agenda topics:
 - a. Professional Development for faculty
 - b. Search committees for Academic Administrators
 - c. Evaluation of WPI Administrators (which had been delayed from Spring due to COVID).
 - d. Name changes for departments (Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering)
 - e. Compensation in the form of course relief for COAP/CTAF members
 - f. Identify steps to resolve academic policies vs. administrative policies and work to ensure faculty governance is involved when policies affect the academic mission
 - g. Follow-up to the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey, led by Prof. Dominko (BBT) and Prof. Demetry (ME).

h. ADVANCE working group meetings held summer 2021. Prof. Heineman will report to COG on these activities.

New items:

- i. Institutional trust
- j. Department budgets
- k. Treatment of retirees

Discussion then shifted to prioritizing these eleven topics. It was noted that a significant amount of work relevant to items *a* and *b* has already been completed. For example, in Spring 2021 Prof. Dominko shared a draft document with COG proposing changes to the Faculty Handbook that would define the types of opportunities that are available and establish the procedures for selection and appointment of faculty members. The Committee decided to prioritize the continuation of this work, and Prof. Dominko was asked to lead the discussion of this document at the next COG meeting.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano
Secretary, COG