

Committee on Governance: Meeting Minutes

Meeting #3: September 2, 2021

Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (Secretary, CEE); Nancy Burnham (PH); Tanja Dominko (Chair *pro tem*, BBT); George Heineman (CS)

Absent: Tahar El-Korchi (Chair, CEE); Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty, AE); Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

1. Prof. Dominko called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes of COG meeting #2 on August 26, 2021 were approved as distributed.
4. Update on First Faculty Meeting on September 2, 2021: The first faculty meeting will be conducted remotely for health safety. Going forward, the decision to conduct an in-person or a remote faculty meeting will be evaluated each month.
5. Update on Committee Appointments:
 - a. Conflict Management Committee (CMC): Prof. Scarlata has agreed to serve as Chair.
 - b. Fringe Benefits Committee (FBC): Prof. Radzicki was appointed on behalf of COG.
 - c. Campus Hearing Board (CHB): Prof. Aravind was appointed on behalf of COG. In a follow-up to last week's COG meeting, Assistant VP and Dean of Students Snoddy was invited to the COG meeting on September 23, 2021.
6. Motion from Department of Mechanical Engineering to Change Its Name to Mechanical and Materials Engineering (MME): COG reviewed this motion in March 2021 but was concerned that the new acronym (MME) may cause confusion with the Masters of Mathematics for Educators program. This issue was resolved in an August meeting that took place with Provost Soboyejo; Dean Heinricher; Prof. Olson, Mathematical Sciences Department Head; Prof. Goulet, Coordinator of the Masters of Mathematics for Educators program; Prof. Yagoobi, Mechanical Engineering Department Head; and Prof. Mishra, Program Director for Materials & Manufacturing Engineering. The following points were agreed upon at this meeting:
 - a. The acronym MME for Mechanical and Materials Engineering corresponds to a department, while the acronym MME for Masters in Mathematics for Educators corresponds to a program.
 - b. MTE and MFE courses will all be renamed and reclassified as ME courses once the department's name change is approved.
 - c. The search engine will be improved to allow for MME Masters in Mathematics for Educators program to be visible effectively during searches.

As a follow-up to this meeting, Profs. Olson and Goulet met with Marketing Communications to review relevant webpages and search engines/tags.

COG approved the motion unanimously, and Prof. Dominko will inform Prof. Richman that the motion has been approved for faculty action at the October faculty meeting. COG recommends that the resolution of the issue with the Masters of Mathematics for Educators program be included in the presentation to the faculty.

7. Motion from Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering to Change Its Name to Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering (CEAE): The CEE faculty voted unanimously to change the name of the department in spring of 2020. This change recognizes the success of the Architectural Engineering (AREN) program in attracting students and faculty research funding, and the program's importance to the Department's mission. The name change may also improve the program's visibility to prospective students. COG approved the motion unanimously with the understanding that the new acronym CEAE is not intended to impact current course designations CE and AREN. Prof. Dominko will inform Prof. Richman that the motion has been approved for faculty action at the October faculty meeting.
8. Prioritize List of Topics for COG Discussion (continued):
 - a. Definition of Academic Administrative positions, Professional Development opportunities for faculty and Description of Search Committees for Academic Administrators: Prof. Dominko provided Prof. El-Korchi with copies of documents from COG's last year's discussions.
 - b. Evaluation of WPI Administrators: In order to get back on schedule with the annual evaluations, COG will conduct evaluations of the following academic deans this fall: Prof. Camesano, Dean of Graduate Studies; Prof. Heinricher, Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Prof. King, Dean of Arts & Sciences; Prof. McNeill, Dean of Engineering; and Prof. Vernescu, Vice Provost for Research. President Leshin and Provost Soboyejo will be evaluated in the spring.
9. New Business:
 - a. COG asks Provost Soboyejo to ensure that the CERT team collaborates with faculty governance as part of the decision-making process.
 - b. COG asks Provost Soboyejo to collaborate with faculty governance on the consequences of the new vaccination policy as it affects the faculty.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Albano
Secretary, COG