

**Committee on Governance: Minutes**  
Meeting #8: Oct. 20, 2020  
Faculty Governance Branch Offices

**Present:** Len Albano (CEE); Kris Boudreau (Chair, HUA); Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT); Tahar El-Korchi (CEE); Glenn Gaudette (BME), Arne Gericke (CBC); Mark Richman (Secretary, AE); and Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:15pm. The agenda was approved as amended.
2. The minutes of meeting #6 were approved with modifications. The consensus was to defer consideration of the minutes of meeting #7 until they were written.
3. Motions Concerning the Tenure Path for Teaching Professors: Profs. Richman and Boudreau summarized the current status of these motions:

The motion to establish tenure criteria for teaching intensive professors has been modified in the following ways:

- As a working draft, the current version of the motion uses the same titles for all tenured and tenure-track faculty members, and would distinguish teaching intensive TTTs from traditional TTTs by an internal “teaching-intensive” designation at the time of appointment. The intention is to send the motion to the faculty in this form with the understanding that the issue of titles for the TTT teaching faculty will be resolved based on community-wide input and consensus.
- The supporting documentation to the motion now includes:
  - a strong written endorsement from the TRT Council on behalf of the TRT faculty (dated Oct. 5, 2020);
  - an outline that organizes the implementation according to general principles and describes the collaborations needed for decisions to be made about the number of teaching-intensive lines to be offered each year, who would be placed on available tenure lines, and the length of each individual probationary periods.

The motion to include (in the Faculty Handbook) additional guidance for teaching-intensive tenure-track professors and joint tenure committees has not been changed since last week. Profs. Boudreau and Richman will continue to modify the details of both motions for COG consideration as they receive input from the community. This includes input that had been received but not in time for today’s meeting.

A motion has been added to modify Part One, Appendix D of the Faculty Handbook (The Roles Played by Tenured, Tenure-Track, and Non-Tenure Track Faculty in Carrying Out WPI’s Mission) so that it is consistent with the new tenure path. It provides a unified account of WPI’s mission across the domains of teaching and research; it sets institutional goals for the balance of traditional TTT faculty with teaching-intensive faculty, and for the balance within the teaching-intensive faculty between those with TTT and TRT status; and it maintains the annual report to the faculty, measured in faculty numbers rather than in credits delivered.

Provost Soboyejo, Prof. Boudreau, Prof. Richman, Prof. Heilman (CBC), and Prof. Pfeiffer (GS) will meet with the Deans and separately with the Department Heads (on Oct. 21) to ensure that input from those groups is incorporated appropriately. The goal is to have the widest support for the motions.

COG approved the current drafts of all three motions. The intention is to present them for discussion only at the November 5 faculty meeting, to incorporate feedback, and to present the final motions for a vote at the December 10 faculty meeting.

4. COG Committee Appointments: COG agreed on its faculty appointments to the Committee on Financial and Administrative Policy (FAP), the Educational Development Council (EDC), and the Conflict Management Committee (CMC). Prof. Boudreau will contact those faculty members to ensure their willingness to serve.

Elections for faculty members to serve on the Dean of Engineering search committee and on the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies search committee must be completed before COG can collaborate with the President and the Provost on appointments to those committees.

5. WPI's Policy on Thanksgiving Travel and Return to Campus: Prof. Boudreau conveyed concerns that have arisen among faculty members about the nature of the safeguards that will be put in place to ensure that students who travel away from campus during Thanksgiving break will abide by the policy that they should not return for the remainder of B-term. How, for example, will the University know whether a student has remained on campus during break?

Provost Soboyejo will convey these concerns to CERT and to V.P. Clay urging them to send a clear message to the community describing the Thanksgiving travel and return policy, and explaining how it will be enforced.

6. The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm, long after Prof. Richman had stopped taking notes.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Richman  
Secretary, COG