

Committee on Governance: Minutes

Meeting #9: Oct. 27, 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 1:20pm. The agenda was approved as distributed
2. The minutes of meetings #7 and #8 were approved as amended. Prof. Richman admitted it was an overreach to have distributed the minutes of today's meeting before today's meeting.
3. Motions Concerning the Tenure Path for Teaching Professors: Prof. Richman, Prof. Boudreau, and Provost Soboyejo provided a brief summary of two meetings they had attended, one with the Academic Leadership Group (ALG) and one with the Department Heads to discuss the proposed three-step approach to addressing the status of our TRT faculty, and the three motions related to the first step. The three steps are to establish a tenure path for teaching faculty, develop secure contracts for those TRT faculty not placed on the tenure-track, and to ensure full participation in faculty governance for all secure faculty. The three motions related to the first step are to establish tenure criteria for teaching faculty, to revise Part One, Appendix D of the Faculty Handbook, and to include separate guidance for documenting and assessing activities toward tenure. The revised version of Appendix D includes institutional goals for the balance between traditional dual-mission (teaching-research) TTT faculty and teaching-mission faculty, and for the balance between the teaching-mission faculty with TTT and with NTT status. Much input from both the ALG and the Department Heads had been addressed and incorporated in the proposal before the meetings. As a result, there is overall support among the two groups for the foundations and many of the details of the proposal.

COG appreciated the range of opinions that have been expressed concerning the appropriate titles for the teaching-mission TTT faculty. Most importantly, all members of COG agreed that this issue should not detract from the strength and spirit of the overall proposal. Consequently, when Prof. Boudreau and Prof. Richman present the proposal (for discussion, only) at the November 5 faculty meeting, the question of titles will be presented as a choice yet to be made and as a call for further input.

4. Search Committee Ballots: COG identified four additional faculty members to complete the ballots for the search committees for the Dean of Engineering and the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. If these faculty members confirm their willingness to serve, the ballots will be sent out electronically on Oct. 30 and will be due back one week later.
5. Status of the Proposal for a Department of Integrative and Global Studies (DIGS): The main discussion concerned the appropriate placement of responsibility for the IQP within the Global School. On the one hand, the faculty members who would be members of the DIGS have and would continue to have a clear and specific responsibility for and commitment to the IQP. If the IQP program were not placed in the DIGS, would that diminish the sense of ownership that the DIGS faculty currently feel for the program? On the other hand, the IQP is a campus-wide

signature program that faculty members from all departments and programs strengthen with their active involvement as project advisors and project center directors. If the IQP program were placed within the DIGS, would that send the wrong signal concerning our shared institutional investment in the program?

The strong desire within COG is to move the DIGS proposal to the faculty for consideration as soon as possible. To avoid having the success of the DIGS proposal hinge on the single issue of the IQP, the consensus developing within the committee is to: a) ensure that the language in the proposal reflects campus-wide commitment to the IQP program; and b) defer a faculty-wide decision to place the IQP within the DIGS to consideration of a separate motion that the DIGS could bring to the faculty through CAP in the future.

6. The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Richman
Secretary, COG