

The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 12th meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year on December 10, 2015 in Atwater Kent Room 218.

Present: Bruce Bursten (Provost); Chrys Demetry (ME, Chair); Glenn Gaudette (BME, Chair); Mark Richman (ME, SOF); Diane Strong (BUS); Suzanne Weekes (MA)

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. The agenda was approved as distributed. Consideration of the minutes of meeting #11 was deferred.
2. The committee discussed the Report of the Task Force on Academic Promotion. The task force created by the Committee on Academic Promotions (COAP) and COG in January 2015 to address concerns expressed by a significant number of faculty members about the promotion process at WPI. The report contains recommendations concerning the criteria for promotion at WPI, departmental mechanisms that would help to address the concerns raised, and modifications to the processes used by COAP. It remains for COAP and COG to consider the recommendation – and perhaps modify them – before any formal proposals to the Faculty are put forward.

The committee discussed how to proceed with the report from the task force. The consensus was that the report in its current form should be circulated to the Faculty (pending COAP's approval to do so) for its feedback, while COAP and COG deliberated on it, as well. Based on this input, specific recommendations would later be made to the Faculty, first as drafts for additional input, and finally as motions to be brought to Faculty meetings as needed.

The committee began considering a few of the procedural recommendations in the report of the task force. One was to move the COAP election earlier to coincide with the CTAF and COG election, and another was to build in a mechanism by which a member of COAP could be recused from a particular promotion case, if needed.

3. The committee decided on several possible candidates to serve as COG's appointee on the Search Committee for the Dean of Engineering and the Search Committee for the Vice Provost for Research. With three members of each committee having been elected by the Faculty, COG's choices were made based on considerations of balance within each committee. Prof. Gaudette (Chair) and Prof. Richman (SOF) will meet with President Leshin and Provost Bursten to collaborate on the appointed members of the committees. The Provost will appoint one faculty member to each search committee and the President will appoint two additional members to each.
4. The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Richman
Acting Secretary, COG