

Committee on Governance
Meeting #17, AY 2015/16
February 15th, 2016
Salisbury Labs 225

In Attendance:

Provost Bruce Bursten, Chrysanthe Demetry, Tanja Dominko, Daniel Dougherty, Glenn Gaudette (Chair), Mark Richman, Diane Strong, Suzanne Weekes (Secretary).

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm and the agenda was approved as distributed.
- 2) The minutes of meeting #16 were approved as amended.
- 3) Prof. Richman updated the committee on the results of the COG and CTAF elections. Professors Len Albano (CEE) and Elizabeth Ryder (BB) were elected to COG, and Prof. Steven Taylor (FSB) was elected to CTAF.
- 4) Prof. Gaudette delivered FAP's response to COG's edits to the recent proposal to change the membership, charge, and name of FAP; see COG minutes #15. In response to FAP's request to add language that COG would consult with FAP when choosing the COG appointee to FAP, COG felt that this consultation is already implicit and necessary in the process given that the purpose of that appointee is explicitly stated "to diversify the skills or perspectives needed by the committee, given the prospective composition of the committee that year". COG approved the current version of the motion.

The motion will be discussed at the March Faculty meeting with the intent to have the motion brought by both COG and FAP for a vote at the April meeting.

- 5) The committee discussed and acted on some of the recommendations of the Task Force on Academic Promotion. In particular, COG focused on item 6 "COAP Procedures on Promotion" of the report.

Election to COAP: COG agrees that COAP elections should be consonant with CTAF and COG elections with regards to nomination and election process, and timing. In addition, COG recommended that faculty members should not be eligible to serve successive terms on COAP.

Composition of COAP: COG agrees that COAP should be enlarged by one elected member, and that policies be established for determining which six of the seven committee members participate in hearing each promotion case.

A Recusal Process for COAP: The committee discussed the merits of instituting a clear recusal process for COAP. Discussion revolved around whether, in any promotion case, COAP should automatically recuse any COAP member from participating in the case if he or she belongs to the same department as the promotion candidate. This raised the possibility

of needing to recuse two COAP members from the same case. Prof. Demetry recommended that when there were two or more members needing to be recused from the review of a candidate that a process similar to that used by CTAF to fill in membership for that review be followed; pages 1-12 and 1-13 of the WPI Faculty Handbook states that "If recusal of two CTAF members is necessary, the most recent qualified past chair of CTAF will serve for that particular case."

COG will draft a motion addressing these changes, and send the draft to COAP for its review.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Prof. Suzanne L. Weekes
Secretary of the Committee on Governance