

The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 3rd meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year on September 14, 2015 in the Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225).

Present: Bruce Bursten (Provost - remotely); Chrys Demetry (ME); Dan Dougherty (CS); Glenn Gaudette (BME); John McNeill (ECE); Mark Richman (ME, Sec. of Fac.); Diane Strong (Bus); Suzanne Weekes (MA – remotely)

Absent: None

1. Prof. McNeill called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. The agenda was approved as distributed.
2. The minutes of the 2nd meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Brief items:
 - Prof. McNeill reported that a proposal will be coming to COG from the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP) to better describe CITP's responsibilities and to suggest that members of CITP be permitted to serve successive terms.
 - Prof. Gaudette reported that a proposal was submitted by CGSR in AY 2014-15 to COG to alter its membership to include the Dean of Graduate Studies (DoGS) as a voting member and to remove the representative from CPE. While there was strong COG consensus at the time that the DoGS should be a voting member of CGSR, COG (in AY 2014-15) decided that broader questions about administrative responsibilities for various graduate student constituencies (i.e. part time students, on-line students, certificate-seeking students) needed to be addressed before an appropriate change in the membership of CGSR could be made. For this reason, COG deferred the matter to AY 2015-16 so that Provost Bursten could be included in the discussions. Provost Bursten expressed a strong interest in working with COG on the matter this year.
 - Prof. Richman reported that he has communicated with Prof. Spanagel (Chair of FAP) and will attend a FAP meeting on Sept. 24 to discuss the possibility – raised last year - of having FAP propose a revision to its formal charge that would, in general terms, clarify its role in working with members of the Administration when studying financial issues of concern to the Faculty.
4. Provost Bursten raised the possibility of changing the title of Assistant Dean to Associate Dean when the position is held by a member of the Faculty. In response, concerns were raised about “promoting” such positions when they are currently understood to be relatively short-term appointments requiring less than 25 percent time commitment, and were filled by appointment rather than by any formal search process.
5. Provost Bursten inquired about the process for Dean searches. According to the Faculty Handbook, the first step in doing so would be for COG to conduct an election to determine the three elected faculty members of the search committee. There was strong consensus that the time was right to conduct a general campus-wide discussion about the Dean structure at WPI.
6. The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Gaudette
Secretary, COG