

Dear Colleagues,

The Bylaws & Governance Working Group (BGWG) met for the second time on February 4, and I am pleased to provide the following update on our progress.

As I reported in my message last month, we had agreed at our January 12 meeting to form subgroups focused on different aspects regarding the pending bylaws (described on the BGGW [website](#)). Since then, each subgroup has worked to understand different perspectives on each issue raised, and has considered possible actions regarding their area of focus.

I am happy to report that each subgroup worked with good intention and came to the table on February 4 with increased perspective. We spent the meeting discussing this work, absorbing the perspectives of each constituency, and reviewing both historical and current practices at WPI. The group shared views on the roles of the bylaws, the faculty handbook, and other key policy documents, and discussed how the work of the BGGW can provide a framework of future enhanced collaboration between the faculty, the administration, and the board.

At this early stage, we have no specific recommendations or changes to the bylaws. However, our shared effort to date has revealed many opportunities for consensus that we will pursue as we continue our work. Our plan is to produce a draft of the BGGW report by the end of March in time to share with the faculty for their April 11 meeting and with the board at their April 12 Executive Committee meeting. In the meantime, we are discussing a possible report format and asking all members to consider additional topics to be covered at future BGGW meetings.

Although we still have work ahead, I am very pleased with the quality of discourse, the level of engagement, and the advances made by the group. We are all committed to continued progress in this important work for WPI.

As always, your input is welcome. Share thoughts and ideas with us at bgwg@wpi.edu.

Best regards,
Laurie Leshin, BGGW Chair

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