

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #11 (2017-18)
Monday, November 6, 2017, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
HUA Conference Room, SL 124

In Attendance: Leonard Albano, Bruce Bursten (Provost), Glenn Gaudette (Chair), Mark Richman (Secretary of the Faculty), Susan Roberts, David Spanagel (Secretary), Bengisu Tulu [via telephone], and Suzanne Weekes

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:37 pm.
2. The agenda was approved after a request to reorder the items.
3. The minutes for COG meeting #10 (Oct. 20) were discussed and amended, but final approval was postponed to give members a chance to review a clean copy with all the proposed changes. It will be distributed and voted upon electronically after the meeting.
4. To be prepared to conduct nomination and election procedures (in the event of faculty approval of the GID motion at the November 16 Faculty meeting), COG members discussed who should be eligible to vote and to serve as elected faculty members to the GID Dean Search Committee.

Prof Gaudette reminded the committee of the charge in the Faculty Handbook (page 2-17):

Formation of the Search Committee:

When an academic administrative position is to be filled from either inside or outside of WPI, a search committee of nine members is formed consisting of three elected faculty, one faculty member appointed by the Committee on Governance, one faculty member appointed by the Provost, two members appointed by the President, and two students appointed jointly by the President and by COG. The President, the Provost, and COG will collaborate on all appointments to ensure balance of the committee's membership and to select the Chair of the search committee. If the search is for the Provost, the President will make three appointments.

If the responsibilities of the position cross all departments, then all faculty participate in the process to choose the three elected members of the search committee. In this case, there is no restriction on the departmental affiliations of the faculty members who may be appointed. If, on the other hand, the responsibilities of the position do not cross all departments and programs, then the elected members of the committee will be chosen by those faculty and from among those departments that fall under the responsibilities of the position. In this case, at least one of the appointed faculty members must be from outside the academic departments that fall under the responsibilities of the position.

A motion was made to expand the list of eligible faculty to include approximately 22 full-time continuing NTT faculty members who are either Global Project Center Directors or who currently teach in the GPS program. The motion was not seconded.

A separate motion was made to nominate and elect members to the GID Dean Search Committee from a pool of TTT faculty members. The motion was seconded, and briefly discussed. The point was made that this was the procedure we had used for all Dean Search committees since the Guidelines for Searches to Fill Academic Administrative Positions had been approved and placed in the Faculty Handbook in May 2007. The motion passed.

After some discussion of the extent to which the responsibilities of the proposed Dean of GID position crossed all departments at WPI, COG members voted in favor of allowing all TTT faculty to vote and all TTT faculty to be eligible to serve on the GID Dean Search Committee.

5. COG examined an updated motion (which included some benchmark information) from the faculty members who had asked COG to review their proposal to change the Faculty Handbook term limits language for the Secretary of the Faculty.

Prof. Richman recused himself from the meeting.

The ensuing discussion highlighted questions about the timing of this proposal (wondering how a bylaw change so close to the next election might be perceived) and thoughts about how expanding continuity in the SOF might improve the effectiveness of faculty governance.

A motion was put forward to table the COG discussion of the proposal until after the election of the next Secretary of the Faculty. The motion was seconded, briefly discussed and was voted down.

As the clock approached the end of our regular meeting time, a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting was made and seconded. This motion passed.

6. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, COG Secretary