Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #16 (2017-18)
Monday, December 11, 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), David Spanagel (Secretary), and Bengisu Tulu

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:38 pm.

2. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. The minutes for COG meeting #15 (Dec. 4) were approved as distributed.

4. COG members examined and began to analyze the AY2017 credits delivered as well as the Official Faculty Headcount data reported as of 10/1/2017, as a first step toward preparing this year’s COG Report to the Faculty on TTT/NTT Teaching Distribution.

   COG members who have participated in the Subcommittee on Faculty Growth shared some of the observations and points of discussion that have developed within that group. Provost Bursten reiterated his hope (first articulated last spring) of bringing the TTT faculty number up from the current number (~253) to something like 300. He added that there are five TT faculty searches approved this year in areas where we currently employ NTT faculty members, and this may also help to shift the ratio of credits delivered in the right direction.

   At this point, the discussion broadened to give COG a chance to review some of the other important committee agenda items for this academic year that had not yet enjoyed much attention. For example, we hope to focus on the mentoring discussion initiated last spring by a subcommittee jointly appointed by COG and COAP. Provost Bursten also asked about how a conversation on encouraging more systematic faculty peer teaching evaluation practices might best be stimulated. In other words, how can we ensure that WPI effectively supports good teaching and project advising across the entire institution, beyond what we already achieve through targeted Morgan Center initiatives, and providing some funding to support relevant professional development opportunities when faculty members seek them out?

5. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, COG Secretary