

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #22: March 11, 2019
Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (Acting Secretary, CEE), Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT), Mike Elmes (FBS), Susan Roberts (ChE), David Spanagel (Chair, HUA), and Wole Soboyejo (Provost).

1. Prof. Spanagel called the meeting to order at 11:06; the agenda was approved with modifications.
2. The minutes from meeting #21 were approved as distributed.
3. Update from the Bylaws & Governance Working Group (BGWG): Prof. Dominko and Provost Soboyejo reported that the BGWG met on March 4th and progress has continued on preparing a consensus document for faculty consideration. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25th with the goal of delivering a draft document that can be sent to the faculty for the April 11 faculty meeting.
4. Update on Global School Proposal: Provost Soboyejo has been incorporating feedback from various stakeholders, including COG, and he expected to share the latest version of the proposal with COG soon. Provost Soboyejo will use his comments at the March 14 faculty meeting to present key elements of the proposal, to advertise its online availability for faculty review, and to solicit broader faculty input. By engaging the faculty in this manner, the Provost hopes to make the best use of the discussion time that is anticipated for the April faculty meeting.
5. Task Force on NTT Faculty Status: The task force has considered several options to improve the job security of WPI's NTT faculty members, ranging from more secure contracts to a rigorous teaching path to tenure, or some combination of both. In parallel with the efforts of the task force, Provost Soboyejo commented that CFO Solomon has been looking at the financial implications of giving longer-term contracts to NTT faculty as a statement of WPI's commitment to NTT faculty. He noted that proper budgeting would help ensure that a five-year contract, for example, would not be abruptly cancelled after one or two years due to a funding decision. Given the importance of coordinating the efforts of the faculty with those of the administration, Prof. Dominko indicated that time may be set aside at the May faculty meeting for the Task Force to give an update but the fall is the more likely time frame to see specific items for discussion.
6. Update on Faculty Evaluation of Administrators: Survey questions for VP Flavin, Dean King, Dean Rissmiller, and VP Tichenor have been finalized through their collaboration. Prof. Spanagel will upload the questions for Faculty Evaluations of WPI and Administrators into Qualtrics so that the survey is opened to the faculty soon after the

March 14 faculty meeting. Prof. Dominko reminded COG that Dean King and Dean Rissmiller will each make a presentation at the March meeting to summarize their roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments. A copy of VP Tichenor's presentation from the February 7 meeting has been posted on the Faculty Governance website for faculty members to review. Presentation materials from VP Flavin, Dean King, and Dean Rissmiller will also be posted.

7. Update on IT concerns: As a follow-up to COG's last meeting, Provost Soboyejo conveyed COG's concerns for the issues raised in WPI's IT Division and their impact on operations and the faculty to President Leshin. The Provost stated that President Leshin gave him her commitment to look into the matter. The Provost also shared COG's concerns with VP for Talent/CDO Jones-Johnson and VP of Information Technology/CIO Patria. The Provost emphasized his intent to engage with the IT staff on items pertaining to academic affairs. The Provost has invited Executive Director Najafi to participate in meetings within academic affairs that deal with academic computing and WPI's digital future. Members of COG suggested that the ATC should also be part of the Provost's focus since the ATC provides essential support for teaching.
8. Annual Report to Faculty on TTT/NTT Credits Delivered: Since a number of significant items are anticipated for the April and May faculty meetings, Prof. Spanagel raised the question as to whether this year's report on credits delivered could be handled through a written document that is approved by COG, and then posted on the Faculty Governance website for distribution to the faculty. It was suggested that a brief presentation may still be made at a faculty meeting but, given the ongoing work of the NTT Faculty Status Task Force and the Board of Trustees' commitment to invest in TTT positions, the discussion can be taken in a different direction than in past years. For example, rather than presenting an argument for adding faculty, the strategy for hiring faculty may be an item for discussion. No decision was made, and the subject will be continued at a future COG meeting.
9. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Albano
Acting Secretary, COG