

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #2 (2017-18)
Monday, August 28, 2017, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Faculty Governance Conference Room, SL 225

In Attendance: Leonard Albano, Provost Bruce Bursten, Glenn Gaudette (Chair), Mark Richman, Susan Roberts, David Spanagel (Secretary), Bengisu Tulu, and Suzanne Weekes

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The Minutes from AY 2017-18 COG Meeting #1 (August 24, 2017) were approved as distributed and amended by email.
4. In his agenda, Prof. Gaudette raised a governance question about one item described in the recently circulated June 20, 2017 Department Heads' meeting minutes (the Foisie Business School reorganization). How and when should Dean Ginzberg and the Provost consult with COG on organizational changes to the School of Business, as discussed in those minutes? Listed changes included: phasing out the Department Head position in Management, and creating four Area Heads to lead, respectively, "Management Information Systems," "Operations and Industrial Engineering," "Accounting Finance and Law," and "Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Management."

Prof. Richman shared his understanding of the sequence of actions that Dean Ginzberg has been pursuing. He believes that the process is unfolding appropriately with respect to faculty governance requirements. That is, Prof. Richman characterized the appointment of Area Heads and an interim Department Head as being internal changes within programs operating in a department.

Prof. Tulu shared her perspective as an FBS faculty member on these proposed leadership changes. She explained how creating this internal structure ensure that all programs delivered under FBS can have dedicated faculty leadership.

Both Prof. Richman and Provost Bursten indicated that there was a shared understanding with Dean Ginzberg that the elimination of a Department Head position, or its conversion into an Associate Dean position, will require presenting a proposal to COG.

5. Profs. Gaudette and Spanagel shared the impressions they gathered through their conversation with President Leshin on Friday, August 25 regarding the COG agenda item on possible modifications to the procedures for Faculty evaluations of administrators. Prof. Spanagel also noted that they had discussed some preliminary ideas of how the President might be able to receive Faculty input (such as a sounding board) when issues arise (either locally or in the world) that require a timely/immediate official response.
6. Prof. Gaudette led COG quickly through some prioritization among the many issues that COG had listed in its first meeting.

Action had already been taken to initiate items A (the procedure for Faculty Evaluation of Administrators, as indicated above by the conversation with Pres. Leshin) and M2 (working with FAP to identify NTT faculty members who are interested in serving on the Fringe Benefits Committee).

COG members expressed support for continuing work right away on item A, as well as:

- item C (Annual report on NTT to TTT ratio of credit delivery, and how this concern links to discussions regarding TTT Faculty size and how much growth is required to meet WPI's mission and future goals);
- item I (Clarify roles of Academic Deans, VPs, and other leadership positions); and
- item K (addressing concerns about Faculty Misconduct Policy and the Research Misconduct Policy).

The other items will gain priority as more information is provided, or initial steps are completed by other committees.

Provost Bursten urged COG to reframe item D (addressing the issue of “Assistant Deans” & administrative professional development) as a matter of fostering Faculty Development, rather than focusing on the specific titles (e.g., the Assistant Deans) that have represented opportunities to provide administrative experiences for Faculty members.

7. The meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, COG Secretary