

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #31 (2017-18)
Monday, March 26, 2018, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Faculty Governance Conference Room

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes for COG meeting #30 (Mar. 19) were discussed and amended, and a clean copy will be voted upon electronically after the meeting.
4. Prof. Richman updated COG members on the progress that he, Prof. Boudreau, and Prof. Gaudette had made in working together with General Counsel David Bunis to revise the WPI Sexual Misconduct Policy. The committee reviewed the current draft. Extensive discussions and questions were raised about the section defining “inappropriate relationships,” the scope of the process that would be used to determine if “consent” had been given in a sexual interaction, and the policy’s scope with respect to the “relationship abuse” section. Prof. Richman will bring these matters and the other COG comments on the document back to Counsel Bunis for further consideration and revision.

Based on COG’s input, Prof. Richman recommended that, with COG’s approval, an updated document be produced and circulated to the entire faculty by this Thursday’s two week notice deadline for the April 12 Faculty Meeting. His expectation would be that the policy would be discussed at the April 12 meeting, hopefully with both Counsel Bunis and Title IX Coordinator Pierce in attendance to help address any questions. With further revisions, a final draft would then be brought for a vote at the May faculty meeting.

5. Prof. Gaudette urged COG members to expedite their conversations with prospective nominees for all of the remaining faculty governance standing committees. Election ballots should be ready within the next couple of weeks so that results can be known before the end of D term.
6. Prof. Gaudette indicated that both COG and COAP had received a proposal on faculty mentoring and a template for a Professional Development Plan from the joint subcommittee on Faculty Advocacy and Mentoring Expansion. There was not enough time in today’s meeting for COG to begin discussion of these documents.
7. Prof. Gaudette noted that Interim IGSD Dean Kent Rissmiller and Associate Dean for First Year Programs Kris Wobbe have asked for an opportunity to update COG on the current thinking of Global Impact Division Implementation Advisory Group (of which they are the co-Chairs). Prof. Richman urged that the Co-Chairs try to provide COG with any planning documents or proposal that they may have, in advance of their meeting with COG, so that committee members can be well prepared.

Provost Bursten shared his sense of how the work of that group has progressed to date.

8. The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, Secretary