

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #34 (2017-18)
Monday, April 23, 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), Susan Roberts, David Spanagel (Secretary), Bengisu Tulu, and Suzanne Weekes.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. The minutes for COG meeting #33 (Apr. 9) were approved as amended.
4. Prof. Richman reported that, on behalf of the faculty members of the Working Group on the WPI conduct policies, he had met with General Counsel Bunis to respond to input received since the April Faculty meeting. Further changes to the document were incorporated as appropriate. In some cases, a shared understanding was reached about why the policy language should not or could not be changed to address a particular concern.

COG made three further suggestions:

- 1) COG suggested that the Title IX Coordinator automatically be replaced as an investigator if any party raised a conflict of interest objection;
- 2) COG suggested that someone who raised a concern over damage to their reputation would direct their concerns to the Title IX Coordinator “to initiate appropriate follow up...”; and
- 3) COG requested that its Chair be included as a recipient of some kind of periodic reporting on the ongoing effectiveness of the policy.

COG voted to approve bringing the revised WPI Sexual Misconduct Policy document forward for a vote at the May 8, 2018 Faculty meeting.

5. Prof. Roberts presented the updated Faculty Advocacy and Mentoring Engagement joint subcommittee’s report, and Prof. Richman shared his suggestions about the motion language that could embody the committee’s recommendations to be considered by the Faculty. After some discussion, COG decided that the appropriate way forward would be to present the proposal only for discussion at the May 8 Faculty meeting and to bring the finalized motion back up for a vote in the fall.
6. The committee discussed the possibility that the Global School idea also be discussed at the May 8 Faculty meeting. Faculty feedback regarding the current draft document could indicate to the advisory group what issues of continuing concern may require additional work in preparation of a formal proposal by the Administration to COG for a proposed structure for global programs this fall. Prof. Spanagel noted that faculty meeting input may also help the Provost to gauge current levels of faculty support for whether the new Dean should preside over a Global School, or just fill the currently vacant Dean of International and Global Studies Division position.

Provost Bursten expressed his desire to proceed during the summer with the preliminary work of preparing for any Dean's search. This work would include identifying and selecting a search firm to work with, and creating a preliminary draft of the position description. He would like to ensure that election of a search committee and effective search process activities can commence in a timely fashion if COG and Faculty approval for establishing a Global School is given in the fall. COG members were not opposed to those initial preparatory steps.

COG members also reiterated their understanding about the proper sequence of decisions and implementation, as described in COG Meeting #4 minutes (Sept. 18, 2017): "the search for a Dean of a newly reconfigured division at WPI should only be initiated after the COG has reviewed the proposal (for the new structure that Dean would be hired to lead), provided its recommendation to the Administration and the Faculty, and obtained approval from the Faculty."

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, Secretary