

Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes
Meeting #4 (2017-18)
Monday, September 18, 2017, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
HUA Conference Room, SL 124

In Attendance: Leonard Albano, Provost Bruce Bursten, 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 1:40 pm.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The Minutes from AY 2017-18 COG Meeting #3 (September 11, 2017) were approved as amended.
4. Prof. Gaudette updated COG on the Working Committee's initial meeting to discuss the WPI Conduct policies. A review of the Research Misconduct Policy by this group of three Faculty and three Trustees is now underway.
5. Prof. Gaudette asked for more information about the President's announcements at last Tuesday's Town Hall and Faculty meetings regarding ideas to combine the Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division (IGSD) with several other globally focused elements of our academic program to form a new academic structure, tentatively named the Global Impact Division.

Provost Bursten indicated that the first step is to convene and charge a group to bring the brief outline of President Leshin's vision into fuller shape as a proposal. He also shared his expectation that an academic Dean would lead the Global Impact Division.

Several members of the COG asked questions about the decision-making process that led up to the President's announcement, and some expressed concerns about the mechanics of implementation steps yet to come. A consensus emerged among the Faculty representatives on COG around the matter of how and when WPI should launch the search for a Dean to lead the newly reconfigured division. The Faculty Handbook's language in Section 2 D (Policy on Initiating and Terminating Departments or Programs, page 2-32) is quite clear:

Policy on Creating, Merging, Realigning or Eliminating Academic Programs and Research Facilities

*Should the Administration propose creating, merging, realigning or eliminating an academic program or major academic or research facility, that proposal shall be conveyed to the Committee on Governance when it has been advanced to the stage of serious consideration, but **before any commitments to action have been made**. The Committee shall conduct a critical review of the proposal, which may include referring it to other committees for consideration. Upon receipt of all relevant information, the*

Committee on Governance will frame a recommendation to the Administration and present it to the Faculty for its approval.

Consequently, 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.

6. Prof. Gaudette announced that Senior Vice President Kristin Tichenor has agreed to meet with COG at an upcoming meeting, to share her views on how to improve the process by which Faculty evaluate administrators.
7. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, COG Secretary