Committee on Governance Meeting Minutes  
Meeting #9 (2017-18)  
Friday, October 20, 2017, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
HUA Conference Room, SL 226

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am.

2. The agenda was approved.

3. The minutes for COG meeting #7 (Oct. 9) were approved as amended.

4. The minutes for COG meeting #8 (Oct. 16) were discussed and amended, but final approval was postponed to give members a chance to review a clean copy, with all the proposed changes to be distributed and voted upon electronically after the meeting.

5. Resuming discussion of the proposed Global Impact Division (GID), Provost Bursten acknowledged that views differed about how to interpret and apply the Faculty Handbook’s procedures with respect to the timing and sequence of the GID Dean Search. He restated the importance for this strategic initiative to be as fully embraced and energized as it can be by the entire faculty. He also noted how urgently the President and he would like to launch the Dean’s search. Therefore, Provost Bursten sought COG’s consent to initiate key activities prior to the actual formation of the search committee, preparatory work intended only to enable the committee to get a quick start once it does convene. These steps are: 1) contacting various prospective search consultants; and 2) beginning to draft a position description.

Ordinarily, COG would first have to approve a final proposal from the Administration, and then COG would bring it to the Faculty for a vote. However, in order to accommodate the Administration’s desire to begin a search for the Dean of GID before a final proposal is submitted and approved, COG considered taking a different approach. It might make more sense for COG and then the Faculty to treat the Administration’s current outline of the GID, as well as information about the composition and charge of the Implementation Advisory Group, as supporting documents when considering a motion containing the following four elements:

1) a general endorsement of the idea of developing the GID concept;

2) a statement that adequate resources be provided to support the work being done by members of the Implementation Advisory Group;

3) a statement that the Faculty agree to initiate the GID Dean search process immediately, to proceed in parallel with the work of the Implementation Advisory Group; but also
4) a statement that no Dean should be hired until after the findings of the Implementation Advisory Group have been presented to and approved by the Faculty.

COG will give the matter further consideration, but moved on to review the steps are involved in forming any Dean’s Search Committee. If the GID proposal were approved by COG (in time for two-week notice distribution on Nov. 2) and by the Faculty at its November 16 meeting, a GID Search Committee could be ready for a kickoff meeting as early as December 11, 2017. Prof. Weekes pointed out this was in line with the kickoff meeting for the last Dean of Arts and Sciences search committee, which occurred on December 14, 2016.

6. The meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Spanagel, COG Secretary