

April 1, 2019

Dear colleagues,

Attached please find today's totally unauthorized April 1 minutes from COG's March 25 meeting. Blame for this breach in protocol goes equally to me and Prof. Richman. Our insincere apologies go to the other members of COG.

In an effort to be completely even-handed, we encourage you to submit your own considered comments and sobering thoughts about the Committee on Governance to both Prof. Richman and me.

All comments will be anonymized to the extent that "reply all" allows.

Thanks,

Kris Boudreau and Mark Richman

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #24: March 25, 2019
Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225)

Present: Len Albano (CEE), Kris Boudreau (Secretary of COG, HUA), Mike Elmes (FBS), Susan Roberts (ChE), and David Spanagel (Chair, HUA).

Too BG to be bothered: Tanja Dominko (SoF, BBT); Mark Richman (ME); Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

1. Prof. Spanagel called the meeting to order at 11:06. Members agreed that the Global School proposal was COG's highest priority, so the committee made sure that all other items would be discussed first. The agenda was approved as modified.
2. The minutes from meeting #23 were approved with gratuitous modifications after an assiduous check for split infinitives.
3. Prof. Spanagel explained that Provost Soboyejo, Secretary of the Faculty Dominko, and Prof. Richman, who were being held captive in the President's Conference Room until they agreed to the new Bylaws, would be joining remotely via cognitive radio. Prof. Roberts ran back to her office so she could radio in, too.

4. Review of survey questions and cover letter for faculty evaluation of administrators: COG discussed the Qualtrics survey to go out to the faculty later in the day. The survey has been piloted by several COG members, who reported that it handles slightly better than a Boeing 737 MAX. Prof. Spanagel shared his misgivings that even on autopilot the survey takes slightly longer than suggested by F.A.A. best practices; however, COG resolved that we were within the pretty-good-but-not-quite-best practices of our peer, peer-aspirant, and peer-don't-even-think-about-it institutions. COG considered whether to blame itself for including additional questions tailored for each administrator (some supplied by the administrators under review, some supplied by other administrators looking to pawn off a few of their responsibilities), or the Administration for hiring too many administrators, especially the kind who nobody knows what they do.

COG considered and approved the cover letter for the faculty that Prof. Spanagel had plagiarized from last year. COG will not inform last year's COG Chair (Prof. Gaudette) about the academic dishonesty because he plagiarized it, too. That, and the Spinach Heart.

Provost Soboyejo restated his preference for 360-evaluations of administrators. Prof. Richman thought that 720s would be better, just in case we missed something the first time around. Prof. Albano didn't care, as long as the angle was converted from degrees to radians. Prof. Elmes was concerned because radians aren't covered in the Business School.

Prof. Dominko warned the committee that, consistent with a suggestion made by Prof. Apelian earlier in the fall, this year COG will be conducting a self-evaluation, although she thought it would take at least 18 months to provide a one-paragraph description of what we've done. After some discussion, COG decided to review Prof. Apelian instead.

5. Review of CITP motions: COG reviewed two proposed policies from the Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP), taking note of the improvements made since COG last reviewed the documents, not realizing that the improvements were made on deep background by Prof. Richman - who knows nothing about Information Technology Policy. Prof. Albano worried that the section in the User Account Policy on Account Accountability was something that George Orwell could have written. COG approved the policies, which will be buried on the agenda for the April faculty meeting.
6. Faculty Governance committee vacancies: Prof. Spanagel circulated a spreadsheet highlighting upcoming vacancies on faculty committees. COG addressed the importance of having representation on the ballots from seasoned participants in faculty governance, from others who have never served, and from those who are seasoned participants but who have never really served. Prof. Dominko noted that a number of faculty members have already indicated interest in serving, especially if it didn't require any of their time. Prof. Spanagel reminded COG of a discussion last fall about whether any faculty governance committees were eligible for phased retirement. COG

pretended not to remember, but wondered if a committee could at least take a sabbatical, and if so, would it be a clear conflict of interest if COAP were to turn down everyone's request but their own.

7. Special consideration of time-sensitive issues: The remaining minute and a half was devoted to an in-depth discussion of the Provost's Global School proposal. Mainly, people were concerned that the picture of the globe on the cover made it look like a School of Earth Sciences, or at best a School of Planetary Sciences with limited faculty expertise.

Provost Soboyejo walked the committee through the school's revised organogram. Nobody had ever heard that word before, although Prof. Boudreau thought she'd once seen a box of them at Whole Foods. To be consistent, Prof. Richman asked if the six proposed M.S. degree programs and the two proposed certificate programs could be presented in a program-o-gram.

Provost Soboyejo agreed to incorporate COG's feedback and get a revised proposal back to the committee too late for its next meeting.

8. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Jointly submitted,

Kris Boudreau (playing Secretary, COG)

Mark Richman (playing Cyrano de Bergerac, COG)