

Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #30: June 29, 2020
Faculty Governance Branch Offices

Present: Kris Boudreau (Secretary, HUA), Tahar El-Korchi (CEE), Glenn Gaudette (BME), Arne Gericke (CBC), Mark Richman (ME), and Wole Soboyejo (Provost).

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 2:05; the agenda was approved.
2. Faculty safety on campus during fall 2020. COG introduced the anxieties expressed by many faculty that they may be required to come to campus even if they fear for their safety or the safety of people they live with. Will faculty need to submit accommodation forms to HR in order to teach remotely? Who will decide to grant these accommodations, and on what grounds? COG members urged the Provost to find a way to allow faculty concerned about safety (their own or someone they live with) to work remotely and to indicate this in a communication to all faculty. COG discussed the twin concerns: keeping all members of the WPI community safe, and delivering a high-quality education so that students will not opt to transfer or take a gap year. The Provost will write up a communication to the faculty that reflects both the faculty's ability to choose whether to teach in-person or remotely, and the institution's commitment to delivering a high-quality, innovative education.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Boudreau
Secretary, COG