Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #7: October 22, 2019
SL 226

Present: Kris Boudreau (Secretary of COG, HUA), Tanja Dominko (Secretary of the Faculty, BBT), Tahar El-Korchi (CEE), Glenn Gaudette (Chair, BME), Arne Gericke (CBC), Mark Richman (ME), and Wole Soboyejo (Provost)

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 12:11; the agenda was approved with modifications.

2. Appointment to the Conflict Management Committee: Profs. Dominko and Gaudette will look into whether COG needs to fill a position on this committee.

3. Search Committee for Dean of Global School: Prof. Gaudette reported on the status of the nominating ballot for the search committee for the Dean of the new Global School. Members of COG agreed on the importance of the search for an inaugural dean, and hoped that those nominated would see it as an expression of confidence in them by their colleagues. Provost Soboyejo will urge the deans and department heads to encourage their faculty to look favorably on such service/leadership opportunities when they arise. COG agreed to take up the discussion once the Provost has something to report.

4. Changes to advising email list: COG next considered the news that advising lists have been discontinued because of "security of lists in the Office 365 environment as well as upkeep in maintaining the lists." The Committee on Information Technology Policy (CITP) hasn't been informed about the discontinuation of these lists or the security reasons mentioned as a motive for discontinuing them. COG members discussed the extra faculty workload imposed by the loss of this resource. Prof. Gaudette will request that CITP and the Committee on Advising and Student Life (CASL) investigate.

5. Appointment of Department Head: COG discussed the recent appointment of a (five-year term) Department Head in FPE and an interim Department Head in ECE. The Provost indicated that the FPE appointment followed the process laid out in the Faculty Handbook. There was uncertainty about whether these two appointments were announced to the entire campus community or to the School of Engineering or to neither. The Provost will verify who received these announcements.

6. Approach for Faculty Appointees on Board Committees: Prof. Gaudette reminded COG that one outcome of last year's Bylaws and Governance Working Group (BGWG) committee was that the Board Chair, the President, and the Secretary of the Faculty will work together to modify the process for selecting faculty nominees to Board of Trustee committees. COG reviewed the official process, which had been written collaboratively (by the Board, Pres. Berkey and the Secretary of the Faculty) in 2012 and then revised in

2015 collaboratively by Pres. Ryan, the Secretary of the Faculty, and COG —both times approved by faculty and the Board. Under this process (still in the Faculty Handbook), COG would compile a list of two nominees for each position as well as a short statement of interest from each nominee. COG's selections were based on the nominees' ability to represent faculty governance to the Board. The Board would then select one representative from each list. Last year, this process was suspended without faculty input in favor of having the academic deans nominate the faculty for the purpose of providing leadership development opportunities to those select faculty members. We currently have no documented process for nominating faculty representatives. Prof. Dominko will bring this up at the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) to restart the work of writing a process and policy. COG recommends that participation in faculty governance continue to be an important qualification for selecting faculty nominees to the Board.

7. <u>Access to Student Course Evaluations</u>: In the past, Banner Web has given campus-wide (student and faculty) access to the numerical results of the student course reports. One casualty of WPI's recent shift to online evaluations is the loss of online access to these reports. Although academic administrators (Department Heads and up) have access to numerical data for faculty in their units, students and other faculty no longer do. COG members discussed the problem as one of both access and transparency: When the faculty voted to adopt online course reports, they understood that response rates and scores would likely drop and there might be other implications. However, nobody imagined that collecting the data online would somehow make it impossible to post the data online. The hope was expressed that the Workday student module will give us at a minimum the same functionality we had with Banner. Upon rollout, the results of the course evaluations should be available. In the meantime, Prof Gaudette will check in with Dean Heinricher to see what can be done to recover this information.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Boudreau
Secretary, COG