Committee on Governance: Minutes
Meeting #8: November 4, 2019
Kaven Hall 111B

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

1. Prof. Gaudette called the meeting to order at 11:35; the agenda was approved.

2. The minutes from meeting #7 were approved with amendments.

3. Update on Committee Appointments: Prof. Gaudette informed the committee that there are no vacancies that need to be filled on the Conflict Management Committee.

4. Budget Update: Prof. Dominko noted that today (Nov. 4) the "WPI Forward" committee would spend the day with Huron Consulting, which will provide an overview of the process and timeline for identifying the $10 million in operating budget savings combined with additional new revenue (mentioned in President Leshin's November 1 email to the community) needed for additional financial aid for our students. Prof. Dominko said that Huron has been helping institutions of higher education optimize their operations by resetting priorities. The work of "WPI Forward" will not be limited to addressing next year's budget but will rather focus on making sustainable changes. A discussion followed about the annual cuts that are needed, with a request for more clarity. Is $10 million needed to close the financial aid gap for incoming students next fall, or are we cutting $10 million now to set aside discounts for later years? Professor El-Kimchee asked what is the anticipated financial gap that will need to be closed over four years of incoming classes? Prof. Dominko will ask for clarification at the "WPI Forward" meeting.

5. IT Policies: COG reviewed revised proposals from CITP: WPI Research Data Retention and Maintenance Policy; and Academic and Research Computing User Account Policy. Both policies were closely based on ones that COG approved last year but wasn't included in the April faculty meeting agenda because of the many other proposals at the end of the academic year. COG members raised concerns about handling access once a student leaves WPI, which Prof. Gaudette will further discuss with CITP. COG approved the two proposals.

6. NTT proposal: Prof. Gaudette reported that the Executive Committee of WPI's AAUP chapter supports in principle the proposal from the NTT Task Force to create a teaching track to tenure. Prof. Richman reported that the Provost made a presentation concerning the idea of teaching tracks to tenure at the Academic Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees' meeting on Oct. 25. Prof. Richman summarized the task force's plans to present the proposal for an informal discussion at the November 7 faculty

meeting. He described ongoing efforts to gather input from a variety of faculty. In his presentation with Prof. Heilman, the goal will be to focus the discussion on the big ideas, leaving the details for subsequent discussions. Members of the task force have met weekly with and talked to the Provost extensively throughout the fall and revisions have been made to the proposal based on his input. In addition, members of the task force have met with most department heads and deans, and have revised the proposal appropriately. Provost Soboyejo reported that the Board could support a teaching track to tenure if the faculty, administration and trustees could work out such unresolved details as representation and numbers of NTTs needed to maintain institutional flexibility. The point was made in COG that non-tenure track faculty members who are retained for institutional flexibility are especially vulnerable.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Dutifully submitted,

Kris Boudreau
Secretary, COG