3-14-2013

COG 21st meeting

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 21st meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year on March 14, 2013 in the Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225).

Present: Michael Gennert (Chair), Kristen Billiar (Secretary), Suzanne Weekes, Elke Rundensteiner, Eric Overström (Provost)
Absent: John Sullivan (Secretary of the Faculty), Bogdan Vernescu, Terri Camesano
Guest: Attorney David Grossi

1. Prof. Gennert called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
2. The minutes from the February 28, 2013 COG meeting were discussed but not approved.
3. Provost Overström requested that COG form an interim Conflict Management Committee. The committee is described in the Faculty Handbook pp. 2-46 to 2-53; specifically, the committee composition is described on p. 2-52.
4. Dave Grossi joined the meeting to discuss the draft misconduct policies. A general conversation of all misconduct policies ensued including Research Misconduct, Faculty Misconduct, and Sexual Misconduct. COG has thoroughly reviewed the Research Misconduct Policy. New draft versions of the Faculty Misconduct and Sexual Misconduct Policies have been completed and will be provided after the meeting. Mr. Grossi advised that a revised Sexual Misconduct Policy with due process procedures should also be adopted in light of recent Office of Civil Rights regulations. The critical aspect of these policies is the procedures for investigation e.g., fact finding and making recommendations by a panel of faculty. There are specific differences in the procedures for Research Misconduct, Faculty Misconduct, and Sexual Misconduct due to federal requirements (e.g., NIH policies for research misconduct, the use of Title 9 Coordinators for sexual misconduct, training for the faculty selected to sit on the panels/boards, etc.).
5. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Billiar, Ph.D.
Secretary of COG