COG 20th meeting

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 20th meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year on February 28, 2013 in the Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225).

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

1. Prof. Gennert called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
2. The minutes from the February 21, 2013 COG meeting were approved.
3. In response to a request from Prof. Bob Thompson, COG discussed the “8-block model” distributed to Department Heads by Provost Overstrom. Provost Overstrom discussed the evolution of the 8-block model over the past few years, and he stated that the purpose of the guideline is to understand the deployment of faculty activities. Several alternative models with variable amounts of details that were proposed in the past few years were distributed and discussed.
4. Dean Guceri, Oates, and Rice joined COG to discuss the Opportunity for Faculty Development: Academic Administrative Leadership. COG has previously endorsed the proposal. Dean Oates spoke to the need for mentoring our faculty in leadership positions. Dean Rice noted that he has been an assistant dean and associate dean in prior positions and learned much from the experiences. These positions are also important for strategic initiatives. Dean Guceri added that we are leaving many opportunities on the table including professional development. Provost Overstrom made the case that such opportunities are an important part of our expanding shared governance. Chair Gennert noted that each position will take away from teaching capacity from departments; Provost Overstrom stated that it would be addressed by Adjunct professors. Dean Rice stated that the Deans need to make the decisions of how to distribute their resources. Additional discussion ensued about Assistant and Associate Dean titles. There was general agreement that the Associate Dean title would be used for TTT faculty in these academic development positions. These are not permanent positions but would be in response to opportunities that arise and that are part-time positions. The Provost stated that if there would be a position proposed with 50 percent or greater effort, the administration would follow the procedures in the Faculty Handbook.
5. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Billiar, Ph.D.
Secretary of COG