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COG 18th meeting

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 18th meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year on February 7, 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

1. Prof. Gennert called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
2. The minutes from the January 31, 2013 COG meeting were discussed and approved.
3. Prof. Gennert discussed the progress of the COG ad hoc Subcommittee on Inclusion of Deans in Faculty Governance. Work is in progress and substantial progress will be made this academic year. The plan is to make draft changes to the Faculty Handbook then bring the proposed changes to the Faculty and the Board of Trustees simultaneously for feedback. Once the feedback is incorporated the revised Handbook will be brought to the Faculty for approval, then to the Board for approval.
4. Nominees for the Spring Faculty Committee Elections are being contacted by Secretary of the Faculty John Sullivan; once interest is confirmed the ballots will be sent out.
5. Provost Overström distributed a revised initiative entitled “Opportunity for Faculty Development: Academic Administrative Leadership.” There is no specific timeline for implementation. COG unanimously endorsed the principle of the policy and noted that the Guidelines for Searches to Fill Academic Administrative Positions stipulated in the Faculty Handbook do not apply to these opportunities, as the primary responsibilities of the faculty in these position positions would not be administrative. The positions that are being considered will hold the titles Assistant Dean and Associate Dean; Prof. Weekes questioned the need for the title of Assistant Dean.
6. At the request of the Secretary of Faculty, inclusion of NTTs on faculty governance committees has been discussed in governance committees. These discussions are preliminary and largely concern NTTs being invited as guests, rather than members. There was concern that individual NTTs may not have administrative roles in their job descriptions.
7. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Billiar, Ph.D.
Secretary of COG