10-4-2012

COG 7th meeting

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Suggested Citation

The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 7th meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year on October 4, 2012 in the Chairman’s Room, Campus Center.

Present: Michael Gennert (Chair), Kristen Billiar (Secretary), Terri Camesano, John Sullivan, Bogdan Vernescu, Elke Rundensteiner, Suzanne Weekes
Absent: Eric Overstrom

1. Prof. Gennert called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.
2. The minutes from the September 27, 2012 COG meeting were discussed but not approved.
3. COG expects a slate for the October 11th COG meeting for appointees to the Board of Trustees' Award for Outstanding Teaching Committee from CAP, CASL, and CGSR.
4. Prof. Gennert noted that FAP has received COG’s charge to report on WPI performance relative to other universities.
5. Prof. Gennert solicited suggestions for volunteers to fill COG appointment to FBC.
6. The COG ad hoc Subcommittee on Stopping the Tenure Clock continues to meet and is making progress on the matter.
7. COG discussed the redefining of the mission of CASL. Prof. Gennert will discuss ideas for changes in the charge of CASL with the Chair of CASL and will report back to COG.
8. COG discussed the status of the process for review of faculty evaluation of the Provost, Deans, and Senior VP of Enrollment and Institutional Strategy.
    a. Prof. Billiar provided a summary of the dissemination process:

    The surveys were distributed electronically (via Survey Monkey) to the Faculty on 4/36/2012 with the following message about the dissemination process (a short summary of the “Method to Disseminate Results of Faculty Evaluation of Administrators” approved by COG Spring 2011):

    “When the surveys are completed, the numerical data for the seven questions will be made available to the Faculty. The numerical data and the individual (anonymous) comments for each administrator will be shared with that particular administrator. All the results for each administrator will be forwarded to President Berkey and Chair of the WPI Board of Trustees Steve Rubin. ”

    The numerical results, a one-page synopsis of the comments, and the verbatim written comments for each administrator that was evaluated were sent to that administrator, President Berkey, and the Chair of the Trustees on 6/12/2012 (as a single, organized PDF file). In the text of the email the process was summarized along with the response rate. Further, Secretary Richman offered to meet with the administrators to discuss the evaluation results as follows (the text below is for President Berkey and Chair of Trustees Rubin, for others he offered only to discuss their individual results):

    “As part of the formal evaluation/dissemination process to foster good communication between the Faculty and the Administrations, Kris Billiar (in his role as Chair of COG) and I [Mark Richman] (in my role as Secretary of the Faculty) are available together to meet with you to discuss the results. The decision to avail yourself of this opportunity is entirely yours. If you would like to meet, then the three of us would discuss any strengths and concerns identified by the evaluations for any or all of the administrators evaluated this year. Please let me know if you think it would be worthwhile to do so, and if so, then please indicate which of the results you would like to discuss.”
The numerical results were sent via email to all Faculty on 6/13/2012 and posted on the Faculty Governance website.

b. Prof. Billiar noted that he and Prof. Richman met with Provost Overstrom over the summer about the Provost’s evaluation results and that the Provost indicated at the time that he had previously met with the Deans to discuss their results. The Chair of the Trustees, the President, the Deans, and the Senior VP of Enrollment and Institutional Strategy did not request to speak to the Chair of COG and the SOF.

c. COG will request that the past Chair of COG and SOF contact these administrators, President Berkey, and Chair of the Trustees Rubin to extend once more our offer to have individual meetings about the evaluations.

9. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.