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COG 3rd meeting

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 3rd meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year on September 6, 2012 in the Faculty Governance Conference Room (SL 225).

Present: Michael Gennert (Chair), Kristen Billiar (Secretary), John Sullivan, Bogdan Vernescu, Elke Rundensteiner, Terri Camesano, Suzanne Weekes, Eric Overstrom
Guests: Nikolaos Gatsonis and Bland Addison (Representatives of the Faculty Review Committee, FRC)

1. Prof. Gennert called the meeting to order at 11:06 am.
2. The minutes from the August 30, 2012 COG meeting were approved.
3. Clarification of the language on Stopping the Tenure Clock provisions in the Faculty Handbook was brought up by representatives of FRC. Two main issues were discussed: a) clarity of the intent of the provisions and b) alignment of the stoppage with the tenure process timetable for annual review of provisional faculty within departments. A subcommittee consisting of Prof. Camesano (chair), Prof. Weekes, and Provost Overstrom will address the issue.
4. Recruitment of Faculty Representatives to Trustees’ Committees was discussed. Additional names were put forward and added to the list. Faculty nominations to specific committees will be finalized at next week’s meeting.
5. The charge to the COG ad hoc Subcommittee on Inclusion of the Roles of Academic Deans in Faculty Governance was presented by Prof. Gennert and discussed. Once changes to the Faculty Handbook are made by the subcommittee and agreed upon by COG, the revised Handbook will be brought to the Faculty for approval, then, if approved, the Provost will provide it to the President and the Trustees Academic Planning Committee (APC). COG adopted the following charge to the subcommittee by unanimous consent:

The COG ad hoc Subcommittee on Inclusion of the Roles of Deans in Faculty Governance is charged with defining the roles of academic deans in faculty governance by proposing changes to the WPI Faculty Handbook. Such changes might include other faculty roles, including department heads and provost. The approval process goes from the subcommittee to COG, WPI Faculty, WPI Administration and the Board of Trustees. The subcommittee might consult with the above parties, not necessarily in that order, and other resources. At its discretion, the subcommittee might propose changes to policies and procedures not in the Faculty Handbook.

The subcommittee shall be guided in its deliberations by the following considerations:

- Consistency with the Mission and Goals of the University,
- Respect for the rights and responsibilities of all faculty in the shared governance system, including administrative faculty,
- Assigning responsibilities and authority in faculty governance commensurate with position,
- Balancing the needs for transparency, efficient operations, clarity of procedures, flexibility, and confidentiality where appropriate.

6. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon