2-15-2011

16th meeting of the 2010-2011

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 16th meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 in the Chairman’s Room in the Campus Center.

1. Prof. Billiar called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.
2. The minutes of meeting #15 were approved with minor corrections.
3. Secretary of the Faculty Richman and Professor Billiar reported on their attendance at the Board of Trustees meeting in Florida. They emphasized the plenary sessions that they attended which included topics on governance of the Board and shared governance, the Dean’s visions and a report from the research marketing group studying how WPI is perceived by others. They noted that the Academic Planning Committee of the Board will meet more frequently in the coming year.
4. Professor Rulfs reported on her attendance at a CASL meeting that was prompted by CASL’s request to COG that the committee be disbanded. CASL feels that they don’t have any action items or assigned tasks and that their general charge is now covered by the Academic and Student Affairs Partnership administrative committee. COG was in general agreement that there were problems associated with CASL as presently formulated; however, COG was not ready to recommend changes. The possibility of a FAP-type model was briefly discussed.
5. Professor Hoffman briefly reported the general findings of the subcommittee on the effect of rapidly increasing undergraduate enrollment. Vice President Tichenor, a member of the subcommittee, had also briefly included similar findings in a report to the Board of Trustees at their recent meeting. Professor Hoffman requested that COG consider the next steps to be taken regarding this issue. More extensive discussion was deferred to the next meeting.
6. Professor Richman distributed the final version of the COG motion on the roles of the tenured/tenure track (TTT) and non-tenure track (NTT) faculty that will be placed on the agenda of a future Faculty meeting. Provost Overstrom noted that the Department Heads were in favor of the wording of the motion.
7. Prof. Richman distributed an updated version of a document regarding titles for non-tenure track faculty and proposed that this version be distributed to the Department Heads. COG agreed.
8. COG reviewed the election results for the Provost Search Committee and discussed preferences for the additional positions to be filled by appointment.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen H. Hoffman, Secretary