Committee on Governance Minutes - Worcester Polytechnic Institute

10-14-2010

6th meeting of the 2010-2011 AY

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 6th meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year on Thursday, October 14, 2010 in the Chairman’s Room in the Campus Center. Present: R. Kinicki (Chair), K. Billiar, A. Hoffman, Interim Provost E. Overstrom, M. Richman, J. Rulfs, S. Weekes, B. Vernescu.

1. Prof. Kinicki called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

2. The minutes of September 30, 2010 (meeting # 5, AY 2010-2011) were accepted with a minor correction.

3. The agenda submitted by Chairman Kinicki was approved.

4. The committee determined the meeting schedule for term B.

5. The rest of the meeting was spent discussing whether the administration had followed the proper published procedure for appointing an Associate Dean and Professor of Practice. Provost Overstrom stated that the responsibilities of the new Associate Dean were purely administrative, and therefore did not fall under the guidelines in the handbook. In addition, the Provost made the point that because the new Associate Dean was hired as a Professor of Practice rather than as a tenured or tenure-track faculty member, the position did not include a faculty appointment as referred to in the guidelines. Concerns were raised by several COG members that the job description of the new Associate Dean (provided by the Provost) fell well within the definition of an academic administrative position described in the Faculty Handbook guidelines, and that the PoP designation was well within the spirit of a faculty appointment referred to in the guidelines. It was also pointed out that, the guidelines explicitly refer to an Associate Dean of a school as an example of an academic position. Various opinions were presented, however a consensus opinion was not reached by the end of the meeting.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen H. Hoffman
Secretary