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26th meeting of the 2009-2010 AY

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 26th meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year on April 26, 2010 in Washburn Room 220.

Present: H. Vassallo (Chair), K. Fisler, A. Hoffman, Provost J. Orr, M. Richman, J. Rulfs

1. Prof. Vassallo called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

2. The minutes of COG meeting # 25 were accepted as written.

3. The agenda for the May15th Faculty Meeting was discussed in detail including the CGSR motion to define the expected effort of students enrolled in graduate courses and the CAP/CGSR motion to create a unit/credit exchange for undergraduates enrolled in graduate courses. There was considerable discussion on this latter motion. It was noted that this latter motion may have consequences that have not been fully explored at the present time.

4. The final election ballot for Faculty committees was reviewed. It has been the policy of COG to gather 2 candidates for each opening. This year, despite extensive effort by COG members, it was not possible to find a full slate of candidates for all of the openings. There are unfilled vacancies on the Campus Hearing Board and the Faculty Review Committee that will have to be filled by appointments in the fall. COG is concerned about the lack of interest in participating in faculty governance. While there has been a gradual long term decline in interest, it became particularly acute this year. Several opinions were voiced as to the possible causes including the heavy faculty workload, the large number of people who served on search committees this past year and that with the addition of Deans many faculty members feel that the voice of the faculty will be lessened. COG will give this topic a high priority on next year’s agenda.

5. The change in the time and format of the annual Faculty Convocation was viewed as being very successful. The Secretary of the Faculty was congratulated for making that change.

6. It appears that the motion by Prof. Rissmiller to eliminate 3/5 year rule will not be formally introduced at the May 15th Faculty meeting.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen H. Hoffman, Secretary