4-12-2010

25 th meeting of the 2009-2010 AY

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 25th meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year on April 12, 2010 in Washburn Room 220.

Present: H. Vassallo (Chair), J. Blandino, K. Fisler, A. Hoffman, M. Richman, J. Rulfs
Guest: J. Hanlan

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

2. The minutes of COG meeting # 23 were accepted as written and the minutes of meeting # 24 were accepted with minor corrections.

3. Prof. Richman initiated discussion of the motions to be discussed at the April 15th Faculty Meeting. His first issue was the revised CTAF motion concerning the role of Dean of the Business School in the tenure process in the Management Department. COG endorsed a proposal from Prof. Vassallo that “in cases where the Dean and Department Head are one and the same, the position of the Department Head will take precedence in the tenure process”.

4. Prof. Richman then initiated discussion of whether major faculty business should be conducted at the last Faculty meeting of the year and if COG should take a position on the matter. COG unanimously felt that the Secretary of the Faculty should ask the Faculty’s will on this matter. Prof. Richman indicated that he would have the Faculty address the matter at the April 15th meeting.

5. The election ballot for the various Faculty committees was reviewed.

6. Prof. Rulfs indicated that several committees had not responded to her request for nominating a committee member to serve on the ad hoc committee for developing a mechanism for faculty review of administrators.

7. Discussion took place as to whether COG should have an official position with respect to Prof. Rissmiller’s motion to eliminate the 3/5 year rule independent of establishing institutional goals. COG was unanimously in favor of taking the following position:
   - The 3/5 year rule was passed by the Faculty and approved by the Administration and the Board of Trustees.
   - By its very nature the 3/5 year rule acknowledges a jurisdictional role of the tenure track (TTT) Faculty with respect to non tenure track (NTT) faculty
   - Unilaterally eliminating this jurisdictional role leaves no formal statement as to the role, if any, of the TTT faculty with respect to the NTT faculty.
   - Other aspects of the COG motions regarding NTT faculty have been discussed in earlier Faculty meetings and include titles, lengths of contracts and methods of review. Without a clear jurisdictional role, any further action by the TTT faculty on these issues would likely be purely advisory.

8. The CTAF position on reviewing appointments with tenure was discussed. It was felt that this issue needed further in depth study.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen H. Hoffman, Secretary