11-24-2009

10th meeting of the 2009-2010 AY

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 10th meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 in the Higgins House Library.

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

1. Prof. Vassallo called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

2. Prof. Vassallo briefly reviewed the results of the recent elections for the Faculty Review Committee, University Council and Campus Hearing Board.

3. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a next generation draft of policies related to Non Tenure Track (NTT) faculty. The agenda for the discussion submitted by Prof. Vassallo was approved. COG first discussed institutional and departmental goals limiting the number of credit hours taught by NTT faculty. There was general agreement on an institutional goal of not more than 30% of the credit hours and departmental goals of not more than 40% of the credit hours. Professors of Practice are included in the NTT limits and have an additional limit of not more than 5% of the tenured/tenure track faculty. The 2nd issue discussed was voting rights for NTT faculty. It was decided not to make any changes in the current policy where each department determines whether its NTT faculty members vote in department meetings. Presently, NTT faculty do not have voting privileges in (institution-wide) Faculty meetings. It was noted that the present Faculty Constitution does allow the Faculty (tenured/tenure track) at their discretion to grant voting privileges to others. The third issue discussed was the hiring and evaluation procedures for the different categories of NTT faculty. By the end of the meeting COG had progressed so that a new draft (#3) of the proposed NTT policies could be developed for the next meeting.

4. The committee members thanked the Provost for providing supper so that the discussions could continue without interruption.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen H. Hoffman
Secretary