10-13-2009

6th meeting of the 2009-2010 AY

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 6th meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in the Morgan Room of the Campus Center.


1. Prof. Vassallo called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. COG meetings for term B were tentatively scheduled for 3 PM on Thursdays starting on October 28, 2009. She announced that there will be a regular election for members of the Campus Hearing Board and the University Council.

2. Professor Vassallo reported that a Professor of Practice indicated a desire to run for a position on the Campus Hearing Board. Because Professors of Practice are non-voting faculty, COG concluded that Professors of Practice are not eligible to serve on governance committees.

3. Professor Hoffman joined the meeting at this point and the minutes of meeting 5 were approved.

4. Professor Richman began a discussion of using a consent agenda as a means of streamlining faculty meetings. He passed out a section from Roberts Rules concerning consent agendas and some discussion ensued. COG opinions were generally positive. Prof. Richman will continue to work on refining some of the operational issues.

5. Professor Richman brought a request from a faculty member regarding the use of material from a WPI faculty member’s myWPI course site by others. The faculty member was concerned that an administrative person (i.e. Department Head) can order myWPI course site material to be copied for use by another instructor without permission of the faculty member who developed the material. COG reviewed the document entitled myWPI Policies and Procedures (dated June 9, 2008) and confirmed that on page 4 the Department Head is granted such authority. Professor Hoffman indicated that he was virtually certain that the policy stated in the myWPI document is in conflict with WPI’s Intellectual Property policy which clearly states that course material is owned by the faculty member who develops it. However, since no one had a copy of the WPI IP policy, action was deferred until the next meeting. (Note added: Subsequently it was verified that WPI’s IP policy grants ownership of course material to the faculty member who develops it).

6. COG returned to discuss issues in the document “Roadmap on non-Tenure Track and Professor of Practice” created by Prof. Fisler. It was voted to eliminate rank of Instructor as a tenure track appointment. Details on rewording appropriate documents will be developed later.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen H. Hoffman
Secretary