25th meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 25th meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year at noon on Thursday, April 9, in the Peterson Room of the Campus Center.

Present: Provost J. Orr. Professors J. Blandino, K. Fisler, J. Hanlan (Chair), J. O'Connor (Secretary), M. Richman, J. Rulfs, and H. Vassallo.

Summary: 1. The Committee acted upon the Agenda previously submitted by Prof. Hanlan.
2. The Committee addressed the Minutes of its meeting of April 2, 2009.
3. COG returned to the issue of ballot formation for those Faculty governance committees for which elections have not yet been held.
4. The Committee discussed a letter to COAP--drafted by Prof. Hanlan--concerning Professors of Practice.
5. A letter to COG, from the current Chair of CTAF, concerning some wording changes in the procedural amendments taken from the Tenure Committee Report: 1968-69 (approved by the Faculty, March 1969) was addressed.

Detail: 1. The Committee approved the Agenda previously submitted by Prof. Hanlan, with one addition.
2. The Minutes of COG's last meeting (April 2, 2009) were accepted as submitted.
3. The major portion of this meeting was again used to finalize COG's list of candidates for each of those Faculty Governance committees for which elections have not yet been held. Each Committee member reported on the results of her/his phone calls to Faculty members during the previous week, and--with very few exceptions--the COG lists for each committee were completed. After the few remaining committee lists have been finalized, the Faculty will be sent the completed lists and will then be called upon to supplement COG's names by adding either their own names or the names of other Faculty who are willing to be on the final ballot.
4. Discussion took place on a draft memo to COAP, from COG, concerning Professors of Practice. Because this topic is related to many other issues which COG wishes to address, there was a question of whether all these issues needed to be addressed first, or whether COAP should receive this memo in time to respond to COG on its contents before the end of Term D. This topic was tabled until next week's meeting.
5. CTAF has proposed some wording changes concerning the description of who are to be the Chair and Secretary of this committee. The proposed description notes that the Chair shall be the most senior eligible member of the committee, and--for the situation in which there are two members of equal seniority--the new language states that the election shall be based on a secret ballot among the members of the committee. The Secretary of this committee shall be the next most
senior member of the committee who has not previously served as Chair. COG voted to approve these wording changes.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.T. O'Connor, Secretary