Committee on Governance Minutes

1-29-2009

18th meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its 18th meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year on Thursday, January 29, 2009.

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 acted upon the Minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2009.
3. The Committee was informed by Chair Hanlan that the ballots for Faculty members to serve on the Search Committees for the Dean of Arts and Science, and for the Dean of Management, have been completed and will be distributed to the Faculty shortly.
4. The Committee continued its discussions re a draft proposal for revisions to the Faculty's method of reviewing members of the Administration.

Detail:
1. The Committee approved the Agenda submitted by Prof. Hanlan without any changes.
2. The Committee approved the Minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2009.
3. The following Faculty members have agreed to having their names placed on the Search Committee ballot for the Dean of Arts and Sciences: Professors D. Adams, S. Bullock, K. Rissmiller, D. Samson, B. Vernescu, and C. Wobbe. The following Faculty members have agreed to having their names placed on the Search Committee ballot for the Dean of Management: Professors E. Danneels, M. Elmes, F. Miller, C. Kasouf, D. Strong, and J. Zhu.
4. The proposal concerning revisions to the Faculty's method of reviewing members of the Administration--when finalized by COG after appropriate Faculty input--will eventually go the the Faculty for its approval. It will call for reviewing Administrative offices once every two years (except when the incumbent has not been in that office for two years, in which case the evaluation will be delayed). The Faculty committees most directly involved with the Administrative offices being evaluated would have a critical role in the evaluation process, as would related sub-committees (e.g., the Fringe Benefits Committee--a subcommittee of FAP). Details of implementing such a system were discussed at length, including Alternative mechanisms for obtaining Faculty input and for conveying the results of these evaluations to the Faculty after they have been completed. Provost Orr pointed out that it would be difficult at this point to devote any additional resources to developing an entirely web-based system of Administrative evaluations. Discussions on this topic will continue at the next COG meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
J.T. O'Connor, Secretary