Committee on Governance Minutes

12-3-2008

12th meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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The Committee on Governance (COG) held its twelfth meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year in the Morgan Room of the Campus Center at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2008.

Present: Provost Orr. Professors J. Blandino, 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 previous meeting (November 19, 2008).

3. COG discussed procedures for formulating the Dean Search Committee ballots.

4. The subject of electronic Faculty voting was addressed.

5. The Committee continued its discussion of the drafts of the three Faculty misconduct policies.

Detail: 1. The Agenda submitted by Prof. Hanlan was approved by the Committee.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting, submitted previously by Prof. O'Connor, were approved as submitted.

3. There were 74 nominating ballots returned (out of 215 ballots distributed) for the Search Committee for the position of Associate Dean for the First Year. Prof. Hanlan is in the process of contacting those Faculty most frequently nominated for this Search Committee; the objective is to identify six of these Faculty who are willing to serve on this Search Committee. As soon as these six Faculty have been identified, this ballot will be prepared and distributed to voting Faculty members.

There were 35 nominating ballots returned (out of 84 eligible Faculty) for the Search Committee for the position of Dean of Engineering. Professors Blandino and Richman will contact those Faculty most frequently nominated for this Search Committee until six of these Faculty accept the opportunity to serve.

There were 36 nominating ballots returned (out of 118 eligible Faculty) for the Search Committee for the position of Dean of Arts and Sciences. Professors Rulfs and O'Connor will contact those Faculty most frequently nominated for this
Search Committee until six of these Faculty accept the opportunity to serve.

There were 12 nominating ballots returned (out of 17 eligible Faculty) for the Search Committee for the position of Dean of Management. Professor Vassallo will contact those Faculty most frequently nominated for this Search Committee until six of these Faculty accept the opportunity to serve.

A general concern was expressed about the awkwardness of asking colleagues if they would be willing to serve on Search Committees (for the Dean of Arts & Sciences and the Dean of Management) when there are no assurances that these searches will go forward this year. Provost Orr agreed to take COG’s concerns into account and get back to COG with his final recommendations before Professors O’Connor, Rulfs, and Vassallo begin contacting any of the Faculty nominated to serve.

When the final ballots for the three Academic Dean Search Committees have been determined, they will be distributed to the three groupings of eligible Faculty.

4. Prof. Hanlan will contact Prof. Kinicki and Mr. Johannesen concerning the current status of their study of the possibility of electronic voting in Faculty elections.

5. Two aspects of the proposed policies on Faculty misconduct were addressed in some depth:
   . Is there a need for WPI to formulate new misconduct policies in areas (other than in the areas of research misconduct and sexual misconduct) not mandated by the federal government.
   . Is it possible to develop a comprehensive list of actions deemed to constitute Faculty "misconduct" which is not considered by the Faculty to be overly subjective.

It was decided that, since formal sexual misconduct and research misconduct policies are mandated by the government, the Committee will first address these two policy drafts.

The Committee adjourned at 9 a.m.

Respectively submitted.

J.T. O’Connor, Secretary