9-25-2008

4th meeting of the 2008-09 Academic Year

Committee on Governance, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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

Present: Provost 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 on the Agenda previously submitted by Prof. Hanlan.
   2. The Committee acted on the Minutes of its previous meeting (9.18.08).
   3. The Committee discussed the need to appoint a new Faculty member to the Outcomes Assessment Committee.
   4. The Committee discussed the need to appoint new Faculty members to the Campus Hearing Board.
   5. The Committee continued its discussions of Provost Orr's memo of 9.10.08 ("Academic Deans at WPI"), particularly how the new Deans would interact with the roles of the Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom (CTAF) and the Committee on Appointments and Promotion (COAP).

Detail:  1. The Committee approved the Agenda previously submitted by Prof. Hanlan.
   2. The Committee accepted the revised Minutes of its meeting of 9/18/08.
   3. At its meeting of 9.11/08, COG appointed Prof. J. Wilkes—a candidate for the Outcomes Assessment Committee in last Spring's Faculty Governance elections—to fill a vacant position on that Committee. However, the Outcomes Assessment Committee is a disciplinary-structured Committee, and the existing vacancy needs to be filled by a Faculty member who is an engineer. Rather than conducting another election, COG will recommend to the Faculty at its next meeting that it (i.e., COG) be given the responsibility of appointing a Faculty member who is an engineer to fill that vacancy.
   4. When the Governance Office and Dean Clay have determined the number of new Faculty members needed on the Campus Hearing Board, COG will recommend to the Faculty that it (i.e., COG) be given the responsibility of appointing these Faculty members rather than conducting another election.
   5. Provost Orr presented handouts in which he had drafted recommended changes to the Faculty Manual relating to the advent of deanships at WPI. Extensive discussions ensued on
the areas of the Faculty Manual relating to Department Heads, CTAF, and COAP. Provost Orr will redraft his recommendations in the light of these discussions, and proposed changes to these areas of the Faculty Manual will again be addressed at COG’s next meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.T. O'Connor, Secretary