

Minutes of the Governance Council

February 25, 2015

Members present: Chauhan, Duffy, Jackson, McLaughlin-Vignier, Nagaraj, Murphy, Vovchuk, Zhang

1. The minutes from the January 28 meeting were approved.
2. Jackson reported that Bruce Diamond, chair of the Graduate Policy Committee, had responded to her emailed inquiry that he feels two separate Graduate committees are still needed. Jackson is waiting to hear from the second committee.
3. Duffy reported that it is possible that the Emeritus/a policy proposal may be pushed from the March 24 agenda to a different date, due to the Faculty Senate running behind. Jackson will ask to be put in a high place on the Senate's agenda once a date is determined, so that the Governance Council can move forward with its own agenda.
4. The Council discussed the Emeritus nomination of Candidate E. Chauhan spoke in support of the candidate's application. Nagaraj agreed to draft the resolution for the next meeting.
5. The Council discussed the Emeritus nomination of Candidate F. Duffy offered to draft the resolution for the next meeting.
6. The Council discussed the idea of shared governance at WPU. Several important points were made:
 - a. That specific roles for faculty, administrators, etc. are not obvious or made clear, although some guidance regarding responsibilities and the roles of faculty can be obtained through New Jersey's Department of Education website and the AFT document on shared governance. The Council reviewed part of the AFT document, specifically the six principles laid out by AFT.
 - b. That scholarship, classroom matters, student matters, and other areas of academic concern should be the primary responsibility of faculty. Running the campus and facilities should not be the concern of faculty except where there is an issue that directly affects student or academic matters.
 - c. Shared governance, as it exists at WPU, does not function properly due to politics and lack of understanding of the participants.

The Council discussed several issues facing faculty that could be changed with stricter definitions of roles in a shared governance framework.

Chauhan proposed that the Council focus on the following areas as the discussion continues:

- What are the responsibilities of the faculty?
- How can we implement shared government (or a better shared government) at WPU?
- What are the responsibilities of management?

- What are the responsibilities of the administrative offices?

Murphy forwarded a link to the AFT document for review in advance of the next meeting, where the discussion will continue.

7. The next meeting of the Governance Council will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 12:40 pm in the Paterson Room of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vovchuk