

Date: May 13, 2025

To: WPI Faculty

From: The Committee on Governance (COG) (Karen Troy, Chair)

Re: Motion to allow elected faculty governance committee members to vote for the full faculty on critical issues if a meeting of the entire faculty cannot be called

Motion

The Committee on Governance (COG) recommends and I move that if a Faculty meeting cannot be convened in a timely manner for any reason, all the elected members of Faculty governance committees will have the power to vote on critical time-sensitive issues through the first faculty meeting in A-term 2025 with a quorum of at least 25 percent of those members required. All faculty members can participate in the vote, but only the faculty elected to governance committees count towards the quorum count. Any such vote would be revisited by the Faculty at the earliest possible convenience.

Rationale

Given the speed at which Federal government directives are impacting higher education, situations may arise over the summer where Faculty approval is urgently needed. In such cases where waiting for the next scheduled Faculty meeting is not soon enough for a decision, a vote by a majority of elected Faculty governance members will serve as an *interim* decision of the Faculty. This group is large enough to represent the campus while also being small enough to quickly convene.

Implementation

The breakdown of the elected faculty per faculty governance committee is as follows:

4 COG
9 CTAF (10 as of July 1)
6 COAP
6 CAP
4 UOAC
6 CAO
6 CGSR
6 CASL
5 FAP
6 FRC
3 CTRF
3 FCC
TOTAL = 64 (65 after July 1)

For this motion, a quorum requires 17 or more of the elected faculty from this group.

If an issue comes up from the time this motion is passed until the first Faculty meeting of A-term 2025:

1. A special meeting can be called by rules specified in [Chapter One, Section Four](#) of the Faculty Handbook. For example, the Secretary of Faculty (Mark Claypool) will call for a faculty meeting inviting all faculty, including elected faculty committee members.
2. Rules for attending and voting in that meeting are as normal, defined in the Faculty Handbook ([Chapter 1, Bylaw 2, Section I. Participation and Quorum](#)), with the exception that a quorum requires attendance by at least 25% of the faculty elected to governance committees (17 or more faculty, see above).
3. All faculty present at the meeting can vote, with normal voting procedures to determine whether an interim policy/change is put in place.
4. No later than the first meeting of A-term 2025, any interim policies/changes that were passed get brought to the full faculty for discussion and vote to revert, maintain or revise the policies/changes.