

**Date:** February 17, 2022

**To:** WPI Faculty

**From:** Committee on Governance (Prof. El-Korchi, Chair)

**Re:** Motion to establish the Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty as a formal faculty governance mechanism added to address issues related to teaching and research faculty

**Motion:** The Committee on Governance recommends and I move that, following the procedure described in Part One, Section Three, Subsection III of the Faculty Handbook, the Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF) be added as a formal *ad hoc* Committee of the Faculty.

**Description of the Motion:**

The proposal would establish the Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF) as a formal *ad hoc* Committee of the Faculty with charge and membership described as follows: (***Bold italic*** text added since the Jan. 20 faculty meeting; red text added as a friendly amendment during the Feb. 17 faculty meeting discussion.)

The Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty (CTRF) is an *ad hoc* committee of the faculty that is concerned with and responsible for raising and addressing issues related *specifically* to teaching faculty and research faculty. It will be the responsibility of CTRF to apprise the appropriate faculty committees, including but not limited to COG, CTAF, and COAP, of any recommendations for new or modified policies proposed in their work. The committee works with COG and other appropriate committees both to bring such issues to the attention of the faculty and the administration, and to bring proposals for action by the entire faculty.

The five-person CTRF includes three elected members who either hold secured nontenure-track appointments (*and have either the titles Instructor, Senior Instructor, Assistant Teaching Professor, Associate Teaching Professor, full Teaching Professor, or Professor of Practice*) or are tenure-track teaching faculty members (*i.e. those with titles Assistant, Associate, or full Professors of Teaching*). Elected members serve three-year terms. In addition, the committee includes the two elected nontenure-track faculty members serving on COG. The committee elects its Chair from among its three elected faculty members. *The committee actively solicits the perspective of WPI's research professors and invites their representatives to participate in CTRF meetings as appropriate.*

The committee will operate for three years as described above, publish minutes, and submit written annual reports of their academic-year activities to the Secretary of the Faculty within two weeks after the last day of each D-Term. Consistent with the procedures outlined in Part One, Section Three, Subsection III of the Faculty Handbook, after three years, the *ad hoc* committee will report to the faculty, whereupon - by action of the faculty - it will be extended for a designated time and purpose, reconstituted, eliminated, or established in an appropriate form as a permanent subcommittee of COG.

**Rationale:**

The proposal establishes a formal mechanism by which issues of concern *specific* to our teaching

and research faculty members can be identified and addressed through our faculty governance processes. The work of the proposed committee **is needed in the short-term** as we consider issues and develop appropriate policy changes that arise from having only recently expanded participation in faculty governance. Additionally, in the next three years, this committee can assure that issues specific to the teaching and research faculty will be addressed by those faculty members most affected by them. In order to get direct input from WPI's research professors while also accounting for their contract status and their job expectations, the committee is charged with soliciting the perspective of research professors and inviting their representatives to participate in CTRF meetings as appropriate.

At the same time, all campus-wide faculty issues, including those to be addressed by CTRF are best resolved with input from, and consideration by, the entire faculty. For this reason – as is the case when any issue overlaps the charge of several committees – the Committee on Teaching and Research Faculty will be responsible to work with COG and other appropriate governance committees, such as CTAF and COAP, to bring issues that CTRF identifies to the attention of and for action by the entire faculty.

**Eligibility:** The faculty members eligible to serve on the *ad hoc* committee are all full-time teaching faculty with the following titles: Instructor or Senior Instructor; Assistant, Associate, and (full) Teaching Professor; Professor of Practice; and Assistant, Associate, and (full) Professor of Teaching.

**Implementation:** Elections for this committee will be held by the end of D-Term 2022 with the elections for all faculty governance standing committees (except COG, CTAF, and COAP).