The dean’s search committee provided an update on the search. The committee has begun work on creating a short list, although applications are still coming in. The committee is, roughly speaking, “on schedule” to complete the search by the end of the term.

The meeting then turned to a discussion of the draft bylaws. Dean Rozell opened the discussion with prepared remarks. He stated that the authority to create subunits of SPGIA is vested, ultimately, in the provost, the Board of Visitors, and possibly SCHEV. The views of the faculty are important but not determinative. No decision has been made about the number or nature of the subunits. He will make a recommendation to the provost that rests on three factors: the views of the faculty, the size and cohesiveness of the units, which should be roughly equal in size, and the capacity of the units to promote multidisciplinary initiatives. In addition, the provost has asked that the proposal reflect a greater consensus than that expressed in the vote on the bylaws committee recommendation. If not, the decision will be postponed until after a new dean is hired.

Dean Rozell then described the revised proposal brought forth by the bylaws committee with his participation. It would create a more streamlined and flexible structure than the prior proposal. It will also provide clearer mechanisms for the promotion of interdisciplinarity. He believes that this proposal will respond effectively to the provost’s concerns, but the new dean will need to continue to focus on the organizational structure of the School. Dean Rozell stated that the SPGIA faculty will vote on the proposal by secret ballot very soon.

A discussion among the faculty ensued, which dealt with the following issues:
- distinguishing “governing faculty” from the full faculty
- why research and teaching are not mentioned
- the proposed committee structure, especially the relationship between search and tenure committees and the committee of the whole
- the composition and tenure of the membership of the tenure and promotion committees
- the proposed program faculties, particularly whether they should be listed in the bylaws or in an appendix
- how faculty members’ affiliations (including new faculty members) with the program faculties would be created and maintained
- how program faculty chairs would be appointed or elected
- the review process, if any, for term faculty members
- procedures for meetings and voting

The bylaws committee will make revisions to the proposed bylaws before they are offered for a vote in the coming week.