

# February 5, 2003 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

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Revised April 12, 2003

**Members In attendance:** Al Hunter, Sonny Cytrynbaum, Alice Eagly, Jack Doppelt, Al Farbman, Hamlin Jennings, James Lindgren, Debbie Lucas, Mario Ruggero, Bruce wessels,

Deborah Lucas, a new member to GFC, was introduced.

## **1. Minutes**

The minutes from the January meeting were approved by all GFC members with some changes.

## **2. Continuing Business**

### *A. Athletics – Bruce Wessels*

There was a brief discussion of the Trustee's meeting. The GFC then addressed the topic of whether we want to do anything with this athletic issue. It has been 30 years since the inception of Title 9 and questions remain as to our compliance and how was this attained. Future compliance will require a balancing act and questions such as "which teams do we want to keep," will need to be addressed. Creating intra-politics in athletics and getting more faculty input could be the key to improving the program. Increasing graduation rates could help offset financial losses related to the athletic program. NU is faced with the family of Rashid Wheeler, who wants athletic department reforms and demand the three head people at the athletic department to be fired.

The protection of student athletes and faculty interests issues are some of the subtle issues to be addressed. Anecdotal evidence indicates that athletes are strongly encouraged to volunteer time for the weight room and apparently if someone does not volunteer, that individual is not chosen for 1<sup>st</sup> string. Is NU in compliance with NCAA on some of these issues?

It is the opinion of one GFC member that many issues seem to be outright violations of rules. The school many or may not know about a death of a student or wrong advice given. Finding out more about deeper issues rather than the current process should be a first step for GFC.

A major question to review is whether or not NU should remain in the Big 10. We spend an enormous amount of money on scholarships but does this system benefit the University? NU is often unsuccessful competing with other schools in the revenue sports and it seems as though we do a disservice by continuously losing serving all intercollegiate. There are movements afoot for which we are joining with other schools to deemphasize athletics but according to Henry Bienen, there is no chance that the other Big Ten Universities are going to change.

The question arises “What is the role of athletics at NU?” There are three main points we are looking at. The first is the push forward with CIC. The second issue is the athletic scholarships at NU. Lastly, figuring out where NU fits within the larger picture. GFC needs to question the philosophy with which we embrace the athletic department. Most athletic teams are not making money they are money users. There is a transparency issue because the athletic department does not share budgetary figures. How much is the Athletic program being subsidized?

How Should the GFC proceed? Who speaks for the student athlete? Should GFC form a subcommittee over this issue? One member would like to see the data first to see if serious problems do exist. If Title 9 is weakened legally, are we behind it? GFC needs to look at Title 9 proactively and take a stance on it. This and other compelling reasons prompted a motion to establish a formal committee on athletics. A committee will be formed and members will include Sonny Cytrynbaum and Mario Ruggero. The strength of this committee will be based on recruiting other faculty. Bob Ten Eick, for example, has put together a great Benefits working group.

This athletic committee was asked to compile more data and statistics from other CIC institutions. It will also conduct a broad survey of the athletic structures at universities all over. Athletics and Recreation will also be looked at.

#### *B. Benefits/Quality of Life – Bob Ten Eick*

Childcare-Alice Eagly: There is currently no plan for follow-up but it is imperative. There is a strong interest in evaluating the adequacy of the YMCA location. Alice Eagly will talk with Charlotte Crane at COWAC. The new person is very good and we can count on an activist position.

Although no commitments have been given, Abbott Hall could be a great space for the Chicago campus. It is an older building but has large windows, a very large main room and is right off the lake. This space is worth fighting for because it is currently a cafeteria, which is not very busy, and there are other places to eat around this area. Abbott Hall also houses the bookstore for the medical school which could be relocated.

*Faculty Housing:* Al Hunter will draft a memo to Benefits regarding the housing for faculty here at NU. He will also pursue what other universities do for prospective faculty (recruitment of faculty). Al will articulate all of his findings to GFC members.

### *C. Communications – Jack Doppelt*

Jack Doppelt's role is two-fold as Chair of Communications with an immediate goal of publishing in the observer. Before publishing, clarification is needed for issues such as who the audience is the purpose and tenor of writing it. His observation is that writing is not 100% supportive unless there is an understanding of why communication is needed to and from faculty. We are lacking ways to get to faculty and are in need of feedback. Email is always a great tool so one possibility is to access a list from administration.

GFC responded in a positive manner to Jack Doppelt's comments. They are in agreement that email is the way to go and mailing lists can and should be attained. One member pointed out that reporting on meetings will be boring and suggested that certain issues be announced instead. People might respond better. The audience of the Observer is much broader and includes residents of Evanston so GFC articles should highlight the issues but email will be the key in communicating the issues directly to faculty.

A survey of all faculty members will need to be conducted. Legitimacy of the survey is important. The survey will serve more as a forum for reaching consensus; a faculty chat room idea. We also could sponsor an opt-in or opt-out email list.

The Observer and email lists are a good step forward but GFC will need to do some branding. GFC will need to be more proactive and raise its profile since many do not view our committee as active. Talking to the editor of the Observer will be a great starting point. A great challenge is to come up with topics and decide how we want to take on the responsibility of doing a regular

piece. One suggested topic is the contraceptive coverage issue which can also be seen as a sex discrimination issue. Jack Doppelt has agreed to write something on this issue. Other topics over which GFC has a strong position on were also suggested.

#### *D. Committee on Committees*

GFC goal is to get new people on committees. Chairs are asked to give a report their committee. GFC members were asked to nominate names for the Committee on Committees. Some committees were added and some were terminated. The Tenure, the Medical committee and the Interdisciplinary committees have all been terminated with the addition of the Communications Committee.

The Budget and Policy Committee remains with a reorganization of structure. This committee is crucial because it is always related to other issues such as policy, school divisions, benefits and many others. A motion, second motion and pass were made in favor of Budget Committee reorganization. Deborah Lucas will be the chair of the Budget and Policy Committee.

#### *E. Membership on Faculty Senate – Alice Eagly*

Membership for the Faculty Senate is different and based on each particular school.

### **3. New Business**

The upcoming GFC Executive meeting will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm until 5:00pm. Henry Bienen and Lawrence Dumas will both be present. An email reminder will be sent shortly.

Al Hunter would like agreement on agenda items to be discussed with central administration. These are some of the suggested topics: follow-up with childcare, broader issues of governance (how does GFC get involved), transparencies and contraceptives. No preparation has been made to discuss athletics. Other suggested topics include the following: affirmative action (NU reaction), get a sense of budget and policy (should convey that this is a concern of faculty) and research affairs – ask about VP search). Committee on Committees will be discussed.

A request was made of Jack Doppelt to attain policies from McCormick on voting provisions for Medill. Jack will look into adjunct faculty life styles as well as transfer payments across schools.

Something should be done about intellectual life of faculty. There should be adequate support for workshop programs.

**Conclusion of meeting:**

The next GFC meeting will be held on March 5, 2002 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

GFC will invite the Dean of Admissions to give a presentation.