

November 3, 2004 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Eva Redei, Thomas Bauman, Caroline Bledsoe, David Buchholz, Dennis Chong, Sudhakar Deshmukh, Charles Geyer, Abraham Haddad, Ilya Kutik, Donald McCrimmon, Martin Mueller, Teepu Siddique, Michael Stein, Allen Taflove

GFC Chair, Eva Redei, introduced and welcomed the newest members of the General Faculty Committee.

1. Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the October 6, 2004 meeting were approved with minor changes.

2. Report on October 28th meeting with Central Administration:

Eva Redei reported on the meeting of the GFC Executive Committee with Central Administration. The discussion centered on the plans of the GFC for 2004-2005 and the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

The proposed Faculty Senate meeting agenda included the following topics: Institutional Review Board (IRB) issues, research compliance issues, internationalization of the University, and the report of the chair of GFC.

IRB issues: There are two major issues to discuss: the current IRB procedures, and the process of defining what research is exempt from review. The current IRB practices are not user friendly, there is no notification of receipt nor is there a time line given for approval. The unclear and specific IRB requirements are hindering researchers from doing their job. Anything categorized as research and is related to humans in one way or another, belongs to the IRB, so this issue should hit home for many faculty members. The issue is not centered on the grey areas themselves, but the hesitation of giving exemptions to those grey areas.

Status of Research Compliance: The GFC needs to know whether previous major research infrastructure and organizational issues were taken care of or the process to complete them.

These issues were focusing on animal care, IRB and effort reporting. David Buchholz, chair of the Research Affairs sub-committee, gave a brief summary of the Research Affairs initiative activities. The administrators responsible for the different components of the research enterprise were identified on a meeting between Brad Moore and David Buchholz. Subsequently forwarded research issues have been answered.

International Affairs: Visa problems and International Office problems are affecting the prosperity of our International affairs initiative.

It was suggested that the question of who the GFC represents will be explored in a subcommittee of the GFC, rather than bring the issue in front of the Faculty Senate. The question arose from the seeming or real contradiction: does GFC represent tenure and tenure track faculty only, or all full time faculty regardless of tenure status as it is suggested by the GFC charter and the faculty handbook.

Vote: The majority of GFC members present voted in favor of establishing the new sub-committee within the Faculty Development sub-committee under Martin Mueller.

3. Themes and topics for the December 4th meeting with the Board of Trustees

GFC members discussed potential items for the upcoming meeting with the Board of Trustees. The underlying theme for this meeting should involve the changing expectations and possibilities of NU in the 21st century. Topics include internationalization and security issues post 9/11, impact of technology in teaching and research (do we use technology to our advantage) and interdisciplinary themes.

4. Request from the Students for Economic Justice for support of the GFC

Members voted not to be involved in the Students for Economic Justice cause.

In Conclusion:

Members were asked to assist in expanding the current Board of Trustees agenda draft. The meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2004.

The next GFC meeting will be held on December 1, 2004 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room) .

Minutes Submitted by:

Diana Snyder