

February 1, 2006 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Thomas Bauman, Paul Arntson, Bala Balachandran, Caroline Bledsoe, David Buchholz, Clarke Caywood, Dennis Chong, Jeanne Dunning, John Elson, Abraham Haddad, James Kjelland, Spyridon Konstantopoulos, Seth Lichter, Teepu Siddique, Michael Stein, Allen Taflove

Introduction: GFC Chair Thomas Bauman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. He welcomed everyone and announced the order of business.

1. Approval of December Minutes:

The minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting were approved with no changes.

2. Discussion of IRB Issues: Don Workman, Director of the Office Protection of Research Subjects

Don Workman, who has been with the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects (OPRS) since January 3rd, is planning to make many changes within the University's IRB structure. He hopes that these changes will alter the current perception that current IRB policies and procedures are an impediment to researchers, especially since the IRB is very important in policing and preserving the university's integrity. Don gave a brief overview of the IRB's internal structure, processes and issues. He also discussed current plans for rolling out a training program for student and faculty researchers, which focuses on research integrity. GFC members presented several situations and scenarios which highlighted the unpredictability and length of the IRB approval process. Director Workman addressed the concerns and offered suggestions on how to proceed with these types of issues.

3. Reports from Sub-committees

Research sub-committee: David Buchholz, chair of the Research Sub-committee, gave a brief overview of a recent meeting with the administration, at which the peer review process was examined. The IRB issue continues to be a top priority for the Research Sub-committee. After a

brief discussion of NU's current research evaluation process, the sub-committee was charged with putting together a recommendation for the evaluation of research proposals.

Benefits sub-committee: Abraham Haddad, chair of the Benefits sub-committee, discussed the long-range possibilities for healthcare options, derived from the recent Hewitt report, which was the subject of discussion at a meeting with Hewitt representatives, personnel from Human Resources, and members of the GFC at Hardin Hall on January 24th. The Benefits sub-committee continues to be proactive in helping to improve current programs.

Budget and Policy sub-committee: Clarke Caywood, chair of the Budget and Policy sub-committee, is working with the administration to obtain budgetary information for the purposes of transparency. Although this has proven to be a challenging task, the sub-committee will continue to pursue it. The GFC would like the administration to involve them in the decision-making process.

4. Discussion and Approval of Proposed Changes to CTEC Policy

Tom Bauman explained proposed changes to CTEC policy and how they will affect faculty members. The numeric portion of all CTECs will now be post on the University website. Faculty may still elect not to have the comments portion of CTECs posted. The GFC discussed the proposed changes and voted in favor of passing the policy through to the Faculty Senate.

5. Report from Chair on Posting of Proposed Copyright Policy

The proposed Copyright Policy and a summary of the report, discussed at the October meeting of the GFC, will be posted on the GFC website for all university faculty members to view and to comment on. Tom Bauman will send out a bulk mailing asking faculty to review the policy and give feedback directly to him. GFC members approved this initiative.

Conclusion:

The next GFC meeting will be held on March 1, 2006 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room)

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder