

October 5, 2005 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Thomas Bauman, Paul Arntson, Caroline Bledsoe, David Buchholz, Clarke Caywood, Sudhakar Deshmukh, Spyridon Konstantopoulos, Martin Mueller, Teepu Siddique, Robin Steinhorn, Allen Taflove

1. Approval of June 1, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June GFC meeting were approved by all GFC members present. The minutes will be posted to the GFC website.

2. Discussion of proposed Copyright Policy, Ken Alder and Mark Ratner

A presentation was made by Ken Alder and Mark Ratner introducing the proposed Copyright Policy prepared by an ad hoc group of faculty and the Office of the Provost. The history and process leading up to the current document was explained; final decisions will be based on input from various faculty groups, administrators, and the legal department.

The policy as it relates to intellectual property was designed with the faculty in mind, and with three basic principles running throughout. The first principle is that faculty members own the copyright to their work, with the exception of specific grant agreements or faculty employed in administrative capacities who are paid to create a specific product. The second principle emphasizes transparency and the importance of having something in writing either when there are changes in terms of revenue or, on rare occasions, when the copyright will not be assigned to the creator of a work. The third principle involves striving, as much as possible, for faculty to get the traditional revenue from the work created and allowing freedom in choosing modes for distribution of the work. Development of software applications is the only area subject to significant exceptions to these principles.

The final decision to accept or reject the Copyright Policy rests with the Board of Trustees. Currently there is no determined time frame for accepting the document. The General Faculty Committee still has time to voice objections to or concerns about the elements of the current draft policy or to recommend any changes it would like to see implemented. The GFC will map out a plan for evaluating the document and also for presenting it to the faculty at large

for input prior to approval by the appropriate faculty body. Professors Ratner and Alder were dismissed with the Committee's thanks.

3. Agenda items for December meeting with Board of Trustees

GFC members looked over agendas from its last three annual meetings with the Board of Trustees and discussed the GFC's role in these meetings. Potential items to include in the agenda for the upcoming December meeting were suggested:

1. Drug Revenue: Who gets access to the funds and what is the actual amount of the income coming in? Can the GFC have a say in how it is spent?
2. Trajectory of Tuition Increases: Where are we headed? What is the plan?
3. Information Technology: Follow-up on cost and electronic resource establishment.

4. Subcommittee structure and assignments

The current subcommittee structure will need to be reevaluated and altered. Based on current needs and past successes, failures, and experiences, the GFC will look into the possibility of downsizing the current slate of subcommittees. A systematic plan will be devised to address the issue of continuity (or lack thereof). It is imperative that the subcommittees carry on agenda items which tend to drop from year to year depending on the current chair. For example, issues addressed last year, such as the "blog," an Office of Ombudsman, and the IRB, should be looked at this year also. Once all of the GFC members have been appointed and are able to give input, changes to the subcommittee structure will be implemented.

David Buchholz has agreed to continue heading the Research Subcommittee. Chairs for all other subcommittees will be assigned at a later time.

5. Other New Business

One GFC member reiterated the need for continuity of items the GFC felt were very important in previous years. The Chair will look over and pick out issues from last year to continue on into this year.

Conclusion of meeting:

The next GFC meeting will be held on November 2, 2005 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall, Room 201 (the Ripton Room)

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder