

March 05, 2008 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members in attendance:

Chairman John Elson, Paul Arntson, Bala Balachandran, Jack Doppelt, Susan Gapstur, Anupam Garg, Donna Jurdy, James Kjelland, Spyridon Konstantopoulos, Seth Lichter, Martin Mueller, Robert Orsi, Aryeh Routtenberg

Guest: Provost Daniel Linzer

Introduction: GFC Chair John Elson called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. He welcomed everyone, including several new GFC members, and introduced guest attendee, Provost Daniel Linzer. The spring University Senate meeting has been scheduled for May 6th and there are currently two open dates, October 28th or 29th, for the Fall 2008-09 University Senate meeting.

1. Approval of January 9, 2008

The minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously with no changes and will be posted to the GFC website.

2. Professor Donna Jurdy - report on January 29th and February 27th Benefits Subcommittee meeting

Donna Jurdy, Chair of the Benefits sub-committee, highlighted the main topics discussed at both the January 29th and the February 27th benefits subcommittee meetings. Discussion items included Payflex handling of FSA accounts, SPAC fees, open enrollment, and raising FSA limit. There was also discussion of whether to post current and future Benefits sub-committee meeting minutes to the GFC website.

3. Discussion with Provost Dan Linzer

John Elson opened the floor to an open discussion with Provost Daniel Linzer about various GFC items of interest and concerns. The following were the topics discussed:

1. Whether the Administration would agree to setting dates for University Senate meetings that would be the same every year, *e.g.*, the first Tuesday in October.
2. What the Administration plans to do with the results of the AAU faculty survey.
3. Faculty and GFC involvement in the University budget process, including a proposal to resurrect the BRAC, (“Budget Resources Allocation Committee”), committee or something similar.
4. Consideration of changes in the operation of the Provost’s office.
5. Then status of the “One Northwestern” goals and plans for further integration of Northwestern’s two campuses and six schools.
6. Possibilities for developing the Humanities program and multiplying collaborative initiatives.
7. The GFC’s role in the upcoming Presidential search.

8. Plans for changes in the operation of the University that would impact the faculty.
9. Changes in the ways faculty members participate in governance.

4. Presidential Search

Discussion of the process for the selection of faculty representatives on past Presidential search committees and the Board of Trustees' announcement of an approach to the selection of the faculty representatives on the new presidential search committee that would no longer give the GFC a privileged role in their selection. A lengthy discussion ensued on ways the GFC could become more effectively involved in the Presidential search and also how to establish a formal role in future searches. He will send an email to all the GFC members to ask for search criteria. John will also contact Vice President Marilyn McCoy to express how strongly the GFC feels about preserving its role in choosing the faculty nominees for the presidential search committee. He will also ask her to show the GFC the faculty candidate list compiled by her Office so that the GFC can try to submit its own list of faculty members that can achieve the broadest support. The GFC plans to gather names for its own short list to present to Pat Ryan, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

5. Additional GFC Meeting

The GFC plans to hold an additional meeting in March to further discuss and prepare for the upcoming Presidential search and also the Executive Meeting. Date information will be sent once plans for the meeting have been solidified.

In Conclusion:

- The additional March GFC meeting date is to be announced.
- The April GFC meeting will be held on April 2, 2008, at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Edited by: John Elson

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members