

December 3, 2008 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Chair Laurie Zoloth, Vice Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Francesca Bordogna, Alan Buchman, Jack Doppelt, John Elson, Anupam Garg, Susan Gapstur, Joshua Hauser, Donna Jurdy, Andrew Koppelman, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, Aryeh Routtenberg, Babette Sanders, Helen Thompson, Sylvia Wang

Introduction: Chair Laurie Zoloth called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and welcomed everyone, including new members.

1. Approval of November 5th, 2008 meeting minutes

The minutes of the November 5, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

2. Review of plan for GFC document discussions

GFC members approved a petition, brought forth by a group of NU faculty, to rally support for the faculty governance reform document and initiative. The GFC plans to host a Sunday and Monday open house on both the Chicago and Evanston campuses, giving all NU faculty members the opportunity to join in on the governance reform discussion and to give opinions on and suggestions for improving the current draft. Open house dates will be January 25th and 26th.

3. Planning for the Board Meeting

Laurie Zoloth explained the logistics of the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting and what GFC members should expect. She asked members to review the breakout session discussion topics draft and forward any comments via email. GFC members discussed in detail the overall purpose and significance of attending the meeting and what the Board of Trustees are looking to accomplish.

4. Discussion of the pay protest letter

Stephen Eisenman explained the thought process and rationale behind the pay protest letter and gave everyone an opportunity to make comments. After a detailed discussion, GFC members did not come to a consensus on advancing the letter and therefore it was withdrawn from the discussion.

A motion was made, first, to resurrect the Budget and Policy subcommittee and, second, for this subcommittee to meet with the appropriate people from the Board of Trustees and the administration to

discuss the question of the present president's compensation and future presidents' compensation. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi has agreed to chair the Budget and Policy subcommittee, and Laurie Zoloth, Anupam Garg and John Elson will serve as subcommittee members.

5. Changes in Retirement Benefits – Donna Jurdy

Donna Jurdy went over the changes in retirement benefits and highlighted particular areas of improvement. In the updated system, for example, staff members are treated the same as faculty members and will get equal benefits.

6. COIA Report – Donna Jurdy

Donna Jurdy recommended full support of the proposed COIA bylaws. GFC members voted unanimously in favor of the bylaws.

In Conclusion:

- In an effort to enable all university wide faculty members to communicate ideas and thoughts on initiatives, such as the current faculty governance reform document, the GFC will work to devise additional communication systems to be used when specific discussions need to be facilitated. Currently, the GFC is using Bulkmail, the BLOG, open houses and meetings additional to the twice a year Faculty Senate gatherings to communicate, but hope to add teleconferencing and videoconferencing, as well as other networking applications.

- The next GFC meeting will be held on January 7, 2009, at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members