

October 15, 2008 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members in attendance:

Chair Laurie Zoloth, Vice Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Francesca Bordogna, Jian Cao, Jack Doppelt, Susan Gapstur, Joshua Hauser, Donna Jurdy, Andrew Koppelman

Introduction: GFC Chair Laurie Zoloth called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. She welcomed everyone and announced the agenda for the evening.

1. Approval of September 24th meeting minutes

The minutes of the September 24, 2008 GFC meeting were approved with changes. Once the revisions are made, GFC members will take a final vote on the minutes.

2. Discussion of one-on-one faculty interview results and Survey Monkey

General Faculty Committee members were asked to interview four faculty colleagues using a specific set of questions generated by Laurie Zoloth. Additionally, the GFC will send out a “Survey Monkey” survey to all faculty members addressing their level of knowledge of the GFC and the Faculty Senate. Laurie Zoloth plans to gather the results of the interviews and the survey, presenting the findings at the October 28, 2008 meeting as a report from the Faculty Senate.

3. Discussion of bylaws: points of conflict and voting

Laurie Zoloth led a lengthy discussion on the various point of conflict that surround the current version of the draft bylaws. GFC members addressed, and offered advice on, major areas of apprehension and inconsistency. Although discussion details will not be made public, the major points of clarification and decision making were, where the power lies, administration of Faculty Governance, and details.

4. Finalization of bylaws draft

General Faculty Committee members were asked to review the recently edited final versions of the draft and, via email, send final changes. Once the draft document is finalized, it will be sent to the administration and the faculty body in preparation for the discussion that will take place at the University Senate meeting on October 28, 2008.

5. Triage of duties for the Senate meeting

Laurie Zoloth led a discussion on the potential agenda items for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. The following was decided:

- a) Laurie Zoloth will ask President Henry Bienen to give a report on the economy and the university financial state in light of the financial difficulties facing the nation.
- b) Laurie Zoloth will contact Professor Ratner (or surrogate) about the May Senate meeting.

- c) Laurie Zoloth plans to present several reports to the Senate body.
- d) There will be a presentation of the faculty governance draft and a discussion to follow.
- e) There will be a discussion regarding the process for voting and beyond.
- f) There will be an invitation to join GFC committees.

6. Subcommittee Discussion

The General Faculty Committee discussed the active subcommittees and membership details. It was established that going forward, subcommittee meetings will take place during the regular faculty workweek. Laurie Zoloth also established the Social Responsibility subcommittee. Members of this group will handle issues related to university public life and civic responsibilities. This idea came about as a result of a faculty member interested in establishing a university gun law. Although this individual was able to present the initiative at the University Senate meeting, the GFC would like to offer the faculty body an ongoing outlet for future comparable concerns.

In Conclusion:

- a) **Next GFC Meeting: November 5, 2008**
- b) **GFC meeting with Board of Trustees: December 13, 2008**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Edited by: Laurie Zoloth

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members