

GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2010

Members In attendance:

Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Jian Cao, Jack Doppelt, Anupam Garg, Andrew Koppelman, Seth Lichter, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, Babette Sanders, Helen Thompson, Sylvia Wang

1. Greetings and Introduction: GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. Approval of minutes of April 7, 2010 Meeting

The minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

3. Reports of the Subcommittees

Budget Subcommittee Report: Anupam Garg, Budget Subcommittee member, gave a brief overview of the recent Budget meeting with the administration. He explained the facts and figures related to faculty salaries and what the effects would be, given a salary increase. The report led to an in-depth discussion on how best to proceed with the administration in the matter, as well as the best way to present the findings to the Faculty Senate.

Childcare Subcommittee Report: Andrew Koppelman, Childcare Subcommittee Chair, will press the administration in an effort to advance the Childcare initiative more rapidly. Additionally, he will prepare a one page summary outlining the Childcare issue as it now stands to ensure continuity of the initiative in the new Faculty Senate.

Childcare Subcommittee Report: Anupam Garg, Benefits Subcommittee Chair, gave a brief update on the progress of current issues being discussed and pursued by the subcommittee. Jack Doppelt, Benefits Subcommittee member, explained that NU is currently reviewing and examining the tax benefit policy,

looking to see if it is equitable. This could greatly impact the GFC's plan to push for the university to eliminate all SPAC membership fees for faculty and staff.

Governance Subcommittee: The Governance subcommittee met with the Provost to discuss the status of the governance initiative. The administration, along with a representative of the General Counsel, introduced a revised governance document, which the Governance subcommittee reviewed carefully. Paul Arntson, Governance Subcommittee Chair, presented each change to the GFC, comparing the original and final governance document with the revised version and allowing GFC members to ask questions and give input. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Stephen Eisenman presented a resolution that the GFC gives its thanks to Paul Arntson and the Governance Subcommittee members for their excellent work in following up with the governance document, and their continued efforts to ensure that a smooth transition to the new regime of the new Senate is established. The resolution passed unanimously.

Paul Arntson and Jack Doppelt presented, in detail, the election process plan for the new Senate and the timeline, giving GFC members an opportunity to give feedback.

PLAN for the ELECTION PROCESS:

- 1. The GFC chair in May would send a message to each department head or the dean letting them know that we will be asking their departments and/or schools to conduct a secret ballot for electing faculty to the new Faculty Senate by November first of next year. Some members would be elected for one, two, or three year terms.*
- 2. Each GFC member would be in charge of 4 or more departments to help facilitate the elections if asked or necessary. The GFC members will be there to help the departments or schools in their election process.*
- 3. Have one school wide non-tenure track member vote within each school. Instead of waiting for the dean of each school to run an election, the election of these 6 members will be run by the GFC. The process would begin with the GFC attaining a list, from the deans or from Jim Young, of all non-tenure track regular faculty in each school. An email would go out to everyone asking them to nominate themselves or someone else for that position. The GFC would send an email to those who were nominated to ask if they would be willing to run. If so, a slate would be set up for them and*

then the GFC would run the election. Out of the six members, two would be for one year, two would be for two years and two would be for three years.

General Faculty Committee Members discussed various strategies for facilitating the first meeting of the new Senate, including meeting date, elections, and discussion topics. Additionally, and related to the election process, the Governance Subcommittee will generate an election notification letter and pass it along to GFC Chair, Stephen Eisenman for further editing. Once finalized, the letter will be sent to all the department heads.

4. Spring Senate Meeting – Thursday June 3rd

General Faculty Committee members discussed, in detail, the strategy for presenting the faculty and staff salary issue to the Faculty Senate. After many ideas were presented, it was determined that the best way to proceed is to advocate for transparency. First, transparency in all the schools, so when a salary increase is, or is not, given, faculty will know what they are being compared with. Second, asking for transparency in administration and staff salaries. Additionally, it will be the new Senate's ongoing obligation to seek a commitment on the part of the administration to provide salary information regularly. This will ensure that the current and past work of the Budget subcommittee will continue on into the future. GFC Chair, Stephen Eisenman asked GFC members, Paul Arntson, Jack Doppelt and Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, to send proposals on what salary information and breakdowns to request from the administration.

A motion will be made at the Senate meeting for the current General Faculty Committee structure to continue in existence until the new Faculty Senate has its first meeting. Additionally, a motion will be made for the current GFC chair to be the new Faculty Senate chair until the Faculty Senate elects a new chair.

Living Wage Campaign: Students will be given five to ten minutes to present the Living Wage Campaign to the Faculty Senate.

E-verify: Stephen Eisenman will present information about e-verify.

7. June GFC Meeting Venue Discussion

General Faculty Committee members decided to hold the final GFC meeting of the academic year at Quince (at the Homestead).

Conclusion

- The next GFC meeting will be held on June 2, 2010 at 7:00 pm at “*Quince at the Homestead*” in Evanston.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members