

December 4, 2002 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance: Al Hunter, Sonny Cytrynbaum, Jack Doppelt, Alice Eagly, Al Farbman, Dan Garrison, Bill Halperin, Hamlin Jennings, Ilya Kutik, James Lindgren, Eva Redei, Mario Ruggero, Robert Ten Eick, Sigmund Weitzman, Bruce wessels, Diana Snyder

1. Minutes

The minutes from the November 6th meeting were approved by all GFC members

2. Report on Senate Meeting from December 3rd

Childcare (Alice Eagly)

The response from Eugene Sunshine, Larry Dumas, and Henry Bienen on the childcare issue was very positive and forthcoming. They are still investigating possibilities for a center on the Chicago campus. A possible location is Abbott Hall. It is probable that running such a center would be outsourced to a provider such as Bright Horizons. The current arrangement of reserved spaces for children of Northwestern parents at the YMCA in Evanston could remain indefinitely, and possibly another center would be added. There have been discussions about using the Roycemore School location when the school vacates the building with the expiration of its lease. Currently, the University has provided a modest amount of funding (\$50,000) to the YMCA for financial aid to low-income parents from Northwestern who use the Center. Depending on family income, matching funds are available through the dependent care Flexible Spending Account for all forms of child care. The income limits for this program have been increased and the dollar match is larger, as is the maximum amount of University contribution to the program.

Currently the YMCA does not provide sufficient spaces to meet the needs of Northwestern parents. Some families have been put on a waiting list for the YMCA childcare facility. It may be possible to remedy this situation next year. Initially, the GFC subcommittee had estimated that approximately 100 spaces would be needed in Evanston, and it is not clear how much of this need can be met by the YMCA facility.

Concern was expressed that the lack of satisfactory child care has harmed the recruitment of minority graduate students in particular.

Thoughts and suggestions

One suggestion was to survey the parents of the 45 Northwestern children currently enrolled in the YMCA Center to determine their satisfaction with the childcare facility.

How should the GFC or administration proceed from here? Should the childcare committee continue to exist, so that the issues do not fade away? A recommendation was made by the chair to continue to monitor the adequacy of childcare arrangements available to Northwestern parents. The current Committee on Faculty Development and Minority Affairs, which worked on child care earlier, will continue with this issue.

Benefits (Bob Ten Eick)

The Medical Benefits issue presented at the meeting deals with medical coverage of Birth Control/contraceptives for women and Viagra for men. Currently men are receiving medical coverage and women are not. The argument towards coverage of birth control is three-fold. First, there is the economic aspect. The expense for not providing birth control benefits costs much more than providing it. There is cost effectiveness in controlling fertility, abortion costs, and discrimination (men getting benefits and women not getting them) costs. Second, there is the discrimination aspect. Why pay for Viagra and not birth control? Not doing so causes discrimination among men and women. Finally, there is the legal argument. States are beginning to outlaw the exclusion of birth control. Currently there are 20 states that have made it illegal to exclude this type of medical benefit.

3. Report on CIC meeting on November 22nd

Al Hunter reports that a resolution was passed! There was much support for the ratification of the resolution. Although it is true that athletics are a financial drain at all Universities (not just at NU), the PR value of staying in the Big Ten is worth the costs. Staying in the Big Ten in football and basketball are especially important to NU because they carry the other sports.

Thoughts and suggestions

Figuring out a way to survive with academic integrity and academic excellence is the challenging task at hand.

What is the goal of the committee on Athletics? Bruce Wessels and Sonny Cytrynbaum have volunteered to form an Ad Hoc subcommittee that will draft question related to athletics.

4. Discussion of Trustee Meeting

The trustee meeting will consist of several breakout sessions consisting of 20-30 faculty, administration and trustees. These breakout sessions are designed to encourage full participation in discussing assigned topics.

Parking issues exist on both campuses. The main issue on the Chicago campus is the enormous increase in parking cost. On the Evanston campus there are several issues. Parking permit cost is not based on pay scale as it is on the Chicago Campus, so a staff member making \$20,000 a year pays the same as a faculty member who makes triple that amount. Contractors and students are taking up valuable staff and faculty parking spaces. Should students even be allowed to park on campus? These are some of the issues that need to be brought before the trustees.

5. New Business:

Minority Recruitment

The GFC is looking to address the low minority student and faculty recruitment issue. This matter tends to overlap the childcare issue.

Faculty Senate Members

The GFC seeks clarification regarding Faculty Senate membership eligibility. A subcommittee will look into finding out exactly who can become a member. The current member classification is extremely vague.

Conclusion of meeting:

The next GFC meeting will be held on January 8, 2002 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room)

A volunteer is needed to serve as vice chair for this year and chair for next year.