

October 2, 2002 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

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

1. Introductions

Member introductions were made.

2. Scheduling Meetings

It is imperative that the General Faculty Committee maintain a voice within the university through GFC's involvement in university meetings.

a. GFC Meetings: All GFC meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month with the exception of January, which will be held on the 8th of January. Each meeting will be held in the Ripton Room located in 201 Scott Hall.

b. Trustee Meeting: The Trustee Meeting will be held on December 7, 2002 from 8:00 to 1:00pm. GFC members were asked to submit topics and issues to be discussed at this meeting.

Thoughts and suggestions

These are some potential topics and issues that were suggested by the GFC members:

1. Faculty has very minimal say in University issues and decision making when meeting with the trustees.
2. Meetings are highly controlled.
3. Push on Athletic issue.
4. Invigorating the workshop programs to raise the intellectual life.

Al Hunter will be sending all GFC members an email soliciting more topics.

c. Executive Committee Meeting: The Executive Committee Meeting with central administration will be held on Tuesday, October 29th from 3:30 to 5:00pm in the Rebecca Crown Conference room. Al hunter will be sending an email out to all GFC members soliciting topics and issues to be brought to this meeting.

d. Fall Faculty Senate Meeting: The Fall Faculty Senate Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd from 3:30-5:00pm at the McCormick Tribune Forum.

3. Appointments to Committees

a. Committee on Cause: The Cause Committee is charged with considering matters concerning impositions of sanctions such as suspensions or dismissals of faculty members. The Committee on Cause functions as a mediator between disputing faculty and administration when the two do not produce a mutual settlement. Cause Members are selected annually by the General Faculty Committee and consists of seven members.

GFC members will need to appoint the seven members, who do not necessarily have to be GFC members. The first step will be to generate a list of potential nominees solicited by GFC members. Then GFC members will be asked to vote for six of them.

Thoughts and suggestions

Several suggestions, issues and concerns related to the Cause Committee were brought up by GFC members:

1. GFC members would like to have a concrete selection procedure of the Cause Committee Members.
2. A major concern is that the committee has a responsibility to the faculty but has to report to the Administration.
3. What are the legal ramifications and legal protections for the Cause Committee Members? Is there confidentiality issues associated with privacy laws? What sorts of liabilities are associated with this type of mediation? If the case goes to civil action, will the committee be violating UFRPTDAP laws?
4. A conflict of interest or conflict of issues may arise for Cause members.
5. A suggestion was made that GFC invite a council authority for the purposes of clarification of charges, liabilities, and instruction on various issues related to the Cause Committee.

b. VP for Research Search Committee: The Provost needs 2 GFC members to assist in the selection of candidates by serving on the Graduate Dean Search Committee. AI hunter will be sending an email out to all GFC members soliciting nominations.

c. Graduate Committee-CORE: One faculty member (AI Farbman) represents faculty concerning the infrastructure of research. CORE is currently concerned with compiling a "Research Faculty Handbook". Other matters considered are modification of the GRAT/S program and devising a better method for effort reporting. The latter is of concern because the federal government insists on an accurate accounting of the percentage of investigators' time devoted to each federally supported project. CORE is also concerned with copyright policy and other matters arising from the research enterprise.

Al Farbman spoke briefly about the Research Metrics Report which measures space in terms of dollars. Many issues still remain, such as the fact that the money being measure is the output not the input, more faculty need to be included in the Metrics Committee, the issue concerning support of central core facilities (Who supports them?), and many more.

d. Norris Center Faculty Committee: All GFC members agreed that Al Hunter will select the 2 Norris Center Faculty Committee members. This committee oversees the Norris Center's ins and outs.

e. GFC Committee on Communications: Members are responsible for setting up channels of communication to inform outsiders of current GFC happenings. They will take a proactive approach to the monthly minutes by tweaking them in various ways in order that they may be appropriate for posting on the web and published in the observer. Committee members will be encouraged to explore other channels of communication other than the Web and the Observer.

Thoughts and suggestions

A suggestion was made that department contacts be made for the purpose of getting feedback.

f. GFC Members to Committees: New members should think about which committee they would like to serve on. Email solicitation will go out very soon.

4. Issues/Reports

c. Child Care: Alice Eagly gave a brief update. Administration chose a secret hand-picked committee made up of non-activist members.

These are some of the issues remaining:

1. On-site childcare for Evanston is not in the proposal. Instead they are looking at the YMCA as a possible off campus site. In Chicago, Abbott Hall is the proposed location.
2. We are the only University in the Big Ten that does not have on-site childcare. We are very behind.
3. Too much "foot dragging" on this issue.

Thoughts and suggestions

We should praise the University for their efforts in trying to resolve this issue but the currently proposed resolution simply does not meet the standard of other universities.

This type of issue is a prime example of why it is a great idea to have space in the Observer.

Agreed to send letter to Provost expressing our views.

d. Benefits: A huge issue is that decisions are made based on Equity.

e. Parking Issue: Parking rates have increased by 66% on the Chicago campus.

Conclusion of meeting:

Al Hunter will be emailing all GFC members regarding:

1. Topics for the executive committee to discuss with central administration for the October 29th meeting.
2. Topics and ideas for the meeting with the Board of Trustees which will be held on December 7th.
3. Additional names to add to the list of members for the Cause Committee.
4. Nominations for serving on the search committee for the Vice President of Research.

Al Hunter will appoint a GFC representative to serve on the Norris Center Advisory Board.

GFC members should think about committees they would like to serve on.

The next GFC meeting will be held on November 6, 2002 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room)