

December 3, 2003 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members in attendance: Bruce Wessels, Thomas Bauman, Caroline Bledsoe, David Buchholz, Clarke Caywood, Dennis Chong, Sonny Cytrynbaum, Sudhakar Deshmukh, Hamlin Jennings, Deborah Lucas, Martin Mueller, Eva Redei, Mario Ruggero, Sigmund Weitzman

1. Approval of November minutes:

November minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Standing Committee Reports

Research Sub-committee: Committee is planning to meet in mid-December. A sub-committee meeting with VP Brad Moore is scheduled for mid-December to discuss research infrastructure issues, especially compliance.

Budget and Policy Sub-committee: The sub-committee met to discuss several issues including the University budget process, overhead and compliance. There is concern that there may not be sufficient transparency in regards to the University budget statement overview, making it very difficult for GFC involvement in the budget process. The sub-committee will meet with VP Sunshine in January to discuss budget details and GFC involvement in the budget process.

Benefits Sub-committee: The benefits sub-committee met on December 2, 2003. Two benefit issues that are being discussed are enhanced medical coverage for mental health and increasing the portable tuition benefit. A series of meetings with Assoc. VP Guy Miller have been scheduled for winter and spring quarters to discuss benefit issues.

Education Sub-committee: Bob Gundlach and Bruce Wessels of the Athletics sub-committee met with the new Athletic Director Mark Murphy to discuss intercollegiate athletics at Northwestern. The COIA Framework document for intercollegiate athletics reform was discussed. Wessels indicated that the U. of Michigan faculty senate is one of the first in the Big 10 Conference to accept the COIA Framework document. The GFC had voted to accept the Framework in November. The sub-committee will now formulate a proposal document for intercollegiate reform consistent with the COIA framework for approval by the GFC and the administration.

Faculty Development Sub-Committee: The subcommittee has not yet met. The issue of faculty leave policy was briefly discussed by the GFC as a potential topic for the sub-committee.

3. Discussion of Trustee's Meeting (Dec 6, 2003, 9:00am):

GFC members reviewed the proposed discussion topics (voted on at the last GFC meeting) for the upcoming Trustee meeting being held on Saturday, December 6, 2003. The overall theme of the meeting will be "Ethics and the University". Specific topics to be discussed include: 1. NU and the Community, 2. The Research Enterprise, 3. Ethics and Education, and 4. Equality and the University. GFC discussion leaders are Professors D. Lucas, T. Bauman, C. Caywood, and B. Wessels. Trustee leaders will be named. The GFC/Trustees meeting will be co-chaired by Pat Ryan, chair of the board of trustees, and Bruce Wessels, GFC chair. Seniors members of the administration will also participate in the break out sessions.

4. Administration budget committee meeting (Dec.15, 2003):

Profs. Deborah Lucas, Bruce Wessels, and Eva Redei will present the GFC 2004 budget and strategy priorities to the University budget and strategy committee meeting. This is the first time that the GFC will make this type of presentation. The presentation of GFC budget and strategy priorities will be formulated by Prof. Lucas and Wessels based upon sub-committee chairs' input. The presentation will be circulated to the GFC sub-committee chairs for approval prior to the Dec. 15 meeting.

5. New Business:

Deborah Lucas was asked to have her sub-committee review the "Consensual relations" document that the administration submitted to the GFC for approval in November. This document if approved will become part of the faculty handbook.

Next meeting:

a. The next GFC meeting will be held on January 7, 2004 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room)

Minutes Submitted by:

Diana Snyder