

May 5, 2004 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance:

Eva Redei, Caroline Bledsoe, David Buchholz, Sonny Cytrynbaum, Abraham Haddad, Hamlin Jennings, Ilya Kutik, Martin Mueller, Mario Ruggero, Michael Stein, Sigmund Weitzman

1. Approval of March minutes

The amended minutes from the April GFC meeting were approved by all GFC members present.

2. Report on May meeting with Central Administration

Several topics were discussed with members of central administration. The agenda included discussion of the next university faculty Senate meeting agenda and the implementation of the COIA document on athletics reform. Central Administration endorsed NU participation in the coalition, but expressed strong feelings toward keeping the current policy as it is thought to be working. Information on graduation rates of athletes and other academic achievement measures will be provided to the GFC. GFC representatives also reported on the new Research Affairs issue reporting initiative, and broached the subject of research compliance in non-federally funded research. The subject was met with interest by the administration and decided to continue a discussion between GFC and the research administration. The proposed university consensual relations document was discussed. Central Administration would like to bring back some of the language in the original document. Strong opinion was expressed in favor of classifying this as a conflict of interest topic and not leaving it as a stand alone document. The document continues to be a work in progress.

3. Committee Reports and GFC Annual Report

Sub-committee chairs were charged with generating annual sub-committee reports and with assisting in providing information for the GFC annual report.

4. Approval of 2004-2004 sub-committee chairs

Finalizing the nominations of sub-committee chairs by the committee on committees is in progress.

5. President's response to COIA initiative

GFC members discussed President Bienen's response to the COIA Initiative. Henry Bienen is of the opinion that NU intercollegiate athletics is currently in good shape and has the numbers to back his statements up. He stated that currently NU has an excellent graduation rate for athletes and an overall excellent intercollegiate athletic program. Therefore, he would like to leave the program as is and not make any changes. GFC members are planning to obtain the statistics that President Bienen is referring to.

6. Senate Meeting Agenda

The following agenda was proposed:

1. GFC report on activities for the year
2. Discussion of continuing issues of the GFC including subcommittee reports
3. Research Compliance Update
4. ACUSP strategic plan
5. University Strategic plan update
6. Report by central administration

7. Research Compliance

Eva Redei spoke about the research compliance issue. The discussion will be related to non-federally funded research, with the goal of getting the current policy revised, with the main issues having to do with the social sciences and academic freedoms, or lack thereof. The problem lies in the researchers not knowing the policies and unintentionally breaking the rules. Many individuals don't realize that they are required to go through the IRB for approval before doing or conducting survey. The question arises: Does this step jeopardize academic freedom and is it even necessary? Currently, there is no requirement by law for the researcher to go through the IRB for approval of social science research, but there is a requirement from NU. Complying with this NU rule may restrict academic freedom of researchers, but protects NU from liability.

Eva Redei will bring this issue to the Research subcommittee, because the implications are university wide and affect tenure, undergraduates, etc.; therefore it is an important enough topic to pursue as a committee.

8. Planning for final meeting

GFC members voted to hold the final GFC meeting on June 2nd at Jacky's Bistro.

9. Comments by Chair-elect and summer transition

Eva Redei discussed current expectations of the GFC for now and next year and the plan of action for now through summer. Committee chairs also talked about issues their sub-committees would like continued into next year.

In Conclusion:

- a. The final GFC meeting will be held on June 2, 2004 at 7:00 pm at Jacky's Bistro in Evanston.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder