

# **December 1, 2004** Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

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**Members In attendance:** Eva Redei, Paul Arntson, Thomas Bauman, David Buchholz, Sonny Cytrynbaum, Sudhakar Deshmukh, Charles Geyer, Ilya Kutik, Deborah Lucas, Donald McCrimmon, Martin Mueller, Allen Taflove, Bruce Wessels

## **1. Approval of November minutes:**

The minutes of the November 3, 2004 meeting were approved with no changes.

## **2. Report on selected issues from the Faculty Senate Meeting**

In comparison to previous meetings, there was an encouraging increase in the number of faculty members who attended the recent Faculty Senate meeting.

A discussion of the IRB brought to light a historic progression of how the university has indeed come a long way in this area. However, there is a need to clearly define and state the requirements that would make a human research protocol qualify for exemption. Furthermore, the approval of exempt status still requires large amount of paperwork and long wait. Turnaround time is unpredictable and inconsistent and PI's often get little or no response from the office staff: IRB procedures are not user friendly.

The topic of Internationalization of the University brought forth a discussion of problems with the International Office and the international process. The office has a university wide reputation of difficult to reach and not offering much assistance. This, as well as department assistants' lack of knowledge and experience, contributes to the problem.

## **3. Increasing involvement of the Faculty in governance**

GFC members discussed ways of encouraging participation and increasing involvement in the Faculty Senate meetings.

- The GFC has to show credibility and effectiveness among faculty.
- Sub-committees should meet regularly with related administrative heads to increase communication and establish relationships.
- Promoting strong, interesting and relevant issues at the Faculty Senate Meetings will bring in more faculty.

- Sending out regular target emails advertising the GFC website and specific issues will bring an increase in awareness.
- Overall, finding ways of strengthening the relationship and increasing communications with constituents is vital. One such avenue consists of establishing a password protected communication channel through the web.
- Martin Mueller volunteered to be the lead on the initiative to increase communication with constituents.

#### **4. Final Agenda for the Board of Trustees Meeting, Saturday December 4, 2004**

GFC members discussed the final agenda for the meeting with the Board of Trustees. The underlying theme for this meeting is the changing expectations and possibilities of NU in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Topics include internationalization and security issues post 9/11, impact of technology in teaching, the role of research in education and interdisciplinary work.

#### **5. Faculty Representation:**

Eva Redei gave a brief recap of the faculty representation topic and the progression of this initiative. For the purpose of getting a comparison of how schools differ on what faculty is allowed participation, Eva sent out an email to all school deans. From the replies to date it seems that there is no agreement among schools or consistency with central administration. After all information is in, the subcommittee will formalize a plan of action.

#### **6. Consensual Relationship Policy**

The majority of GFC members present voted in favor of accepting the current Consensual Relationship Policy document dated 04/20/04, as it stands.

#### **7. Subcommittee Reports**

**Benefits:** Abraham Haddad was not present to give a report, but instead had a handout made available for all GFC members, that described the sub-committee's goals and achievements to date.

**Educational Affairs:** Bruce Wessels shared the sub-committee's priority list, which includes the following topics: interdisciplinary initiative, international relations activities, athletics – on-going

COIA, student advising – new system of looking at courses. Bruce plans to attend the upcoming COIA Symposium at Vanderbilt University in January, to further engage in COIA initiative discussion with other university senate leaders.

**Faculty Development/Minority Issues:** Martin Mueller plans to lead his subcommittee in addressing two major topics: question of representation and regulatory issues. Faculty representation rules should be uniform across the university. There are numerous questions related to regulatory issues with the IRB, particularly the unclear policies regarding to human subject issues in the humanities and social sciences.

**Research Affairs:** David Buchholz is continuing to facilitate the communication between faculty and research administrators. The committee has several special sub groups and has assigned a person for each quarter to be in charge of pursuing responses from the proper administrative offices within the research enterprise.

**Budget and Policy:** Debbie Lucas is planning to schedule a meeting with the administration to discuss several budget issues. The sub-committee will follow the progress of new NU systems being adapted.

#### **8. New Business:**

The GFC will form a chair-elect nominating committee. Members will vote for new chair-elect at the January GFC meeting.

#### **In Conclusion:**

The next GFC meeting will be held on January 5, 2005 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room)

Minutes Submitted by:

Diana Snyder