

May 2, 2007 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

Members In attendance:

Chairman Paul Arntson, David Abrahamson, Dennis Chong, Jeanne Dunning, John Elson, Abraham Haddad, Donna Jurdy, James Kjelland, Spyridon Konstantopoulos, Seth Lichter, Mark Segraves, Allen Taflove, Laurie Zoloth

1. Approval of April 11, 2007 Minutes

The minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously, pending possible changes to be given to Diana Snyder.

2. University Senate Meeting Preparations

Paul Arntson led a discussion on the following topics that he will be presenting on behalf of the GFC at the May 17, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting:

- a. Elected faculty members to University Senate Discussion
- b. Starting a GFC run faculty concerns program
- c. Participating in Writing Questions for an AAU faculty survey in the fall
- d. IRB review procedures for Non- Federal grant proposals

The GFC will send out a Bulk mailing to the Faculty body announcing the Senate Meeting, presenting the topics above and requesting attendance. In the next several weeks, a survey will be sent out to all faculty members asking for feedback on the new major changes that will be proposed at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

3. CIC Provosts' Statement on Publishing Agreements

Paul Arntson explained the CIC movement concerning the rights of faculty to their written works lost (temporarily in most cases) to the publisher. The CIC's review of this common contractual practice comes as a result of questions concerning electronic availability of the works. GFC members discussed the various aspects of the issue in detail, but will make a final decision by Fall of 2007-08 whether to reject, endorse or pass on the CIC statement.

4. Election of GFC Vice Chair Process

Paul Arntson asked GFC members to nominate or consider serving as Vice Chair of the GFC for the 2007-08 academic year. Interested individuals should contact Paul directly.

5. Benefits Subcommittee Report

The Benefits subcommittee continues to meet on a monthly basis. Subcommittee Chair Abraham Haddad gave a brief overview of the issues being currently being discussed. At the April 25th subcommittee meeting, Benefits representatives Guy Miller and Tom Evans presented alternative plans for retirees. The Benefits subcommittee is pursuing changes in the dental plans offered and is also requesting that SPAC be made available to all Faculty and Staff free of charge.

6. Medill School of Journalism Faculty Governance Inquiry

David Abrahamson gave an overview of the current state of affairs at the Medill School of Journalism as it related to Faculty Governance or lack thereof. The GFC voted in favor of investigating this issue further and will begin by first communicating with the Provost, who initially ruled to suspend faculty governance. The initial inquiry will be presented in written form and will request the detailing of the process used to decide the suspension and what the suspension actually includes. Paul Arntson and John Elson will draft the letter and circulate it to all GFC members for approval, prior to presenting it to the Provost.

7. Election of GFC Representative Process

Paul Arntson plans to contact each school to request the election of FY2007-08 GFC members to take place now to ensure a full membership roster in the Fall. This has been a huge issue in FY2007-07 with several remaining vacancies.

8. New Business

New Faculty Senate Discussion-BULK Mailing: The GFC discussed revision ideas of the content and layout of the Bulk mailing that will be sent to the Faculty body, which will announce the new Faculty Senate initiative and request faculty members to attend the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. The original document was presented to the GFC by Allen Taflove and was written by members of the Faculty Governance subcommittee.

Faculty Club: GFC members would like to continue pursuing the opening of an on campus Faculty Club.

December 2007 BOT Meeting: John Elson asked GFC members to begin thinking of topics for the December 2007 Board of Trustees Meeting.

9. June Meeting will be held at Jacky's Bistro in Evanston

Paul Arntson announced that the final GFC meeting will be held on June 6, 2007 at 7:00 pm at Jacky's Bistro in Evanston.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Edited and Approved by: The General Faculty Committee