

# GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 01, 2009

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## **Members in attendance:**

Chair Laurie Zoloth, Vice Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, John Elson, Anupam Garg, Joshua Hauser, Donna Jurdy, Andrew Koppelman, Seth Lichter, William Ocasio, Babette Sanders, Helen Thompson

**Introduction:** GFC Chair Laurie Zoloth called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

## **1. Chair's Report: Qatar, PRC**

Laurie Zoloth talked about the importance of the Program Review Council (PRC) and invited GFC members to give input and feedback on two particular NU units currently under review. She also briefly discussed the findings of her recent visit to the Qatar campus and offered to go into more detail and answer questions when the GFC meeting adjourns.

## **2. Procedure for faculty complaints within a school**

Laurie Zoloth was approached, in confidence, by a faculty member with a grievance about the school's process for handling faculty complaints within his/her unit. GFC members discussed the committee's present and future role in the handling of such issues. The following process was considered; first, the individual(s) go to the dean of their school. If no resolution transpires, then the individual(s) seeks the assistance of the General faculty committee. If still no resolution, the GFC will accompany the individual(s) to the Provost. GFC members had mixed feelings about adapting this process and will continued discussions on this matter as things unfold. We also anticipate that the new ombudsman will be able to offer advice on some of these matters. We need to hear the response to John Elson's letter to the NU Counsel about the ombudsman.

## **3. Discussion of Open Access at MIT, Harvard and Stanford**

The university administration would like to proactively take the lead on the Open Access matter, which recently surfaced at MIT, Harvard and Stanford, asking the General Faculty Committee to consider

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involvement in the discussion and decision making process. Open Access would allow immediate access to institutional article publications, which could be freely posted electronically by the University. Currently, this action is restricted to six months following publication. In their discussion, GFC members referenced the CIC resolution as a basis. Although varying opinions were presented, overall the GFC sees the merits and importance of this issue and will pursue the matter further. Laurie Zoloth appointed a GFC subgroup, with GFC members Helen Thompson and Joshua Hauser, to look at the policy in detail and email the information to the General Faculty Committee for an electronic vote.

#### **4. Discussion of faculty survey**

Anupam Garg led the discussion about whether or not to pursue the faculty survey evaluation of administrators. Paul Arntson presented several issues associated with this type of process, focusing on security and confidentiality, with one major risk being the loss of anonymity of faculty responding to the survey. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that a system for evaluating administrators must be set up and ready for later presentation to the incoming NU president for approval, funding and implementation.

A motion was made, and seconded, that it is resolved for the faculty to undertake annual reviews of the administration, with the modalities of this to be determined. The floor was opened for discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was passed.

#### **5. Discussion of Agenda for GFC Executive Meeting, Monday, April 6, 2009**

Laurie Zoloth will ask the administration for the AAU faculty survey results in preparation for the upcoming Executive Meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the following agenda items were decided:

1. Discussion of data from AAU faculty survey.
2. Discussion of GFC response to MIT faculty resolution on open access publications.
3. Status report about discussions about hiring, searches, and salary raises. Constructive discussion about how faculty and GFC can participate in this process.
4. Continuing discussion of the budget committee and its role.
5. Planning for May 5th meeting on faculty governance vote-issues of distance, dual campuses, and email voting.

## **6. Discussion of Departmental Representation vs. Proportional Representation**

The General Faculty Committee discussed the future of departmental representation and proportional representation within the proposed faculty governance structure. Arguments supporting and opposing both types of representation were presented. The logistics of having a larger representative body came into question several times during the discussion.

A motion was made, and seconded, to reconsider the vote that stated that there should be representation by departments, not proportionally by school size, for the new faculty senate. The floor was opened for discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was not passed. Thus, the General Faculty Committee will present departmental representation to the faculty body as the membership structure for the new faculty senate as was decided in the last vote.

## **7. Planning for MAY 5<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting—**

**PR assignments:** All members are responsible for personally inviting departmental faculty to attend.

**Setting up vote by email:** Electronic voting via email will be set up within 24 hours of meeting.

**Meeting Sites:** There will be a meeting site on both the Chicago and the Evanston Campus

### **In Conclusion:**

- The next GFC meeting will be held on May 6, 2009, at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).
- The Minutes from the February 4<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup> GFC meetings will be voted on via email.

***The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm***

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes edited and approved by: General Faculty Committee members