

## November 5, 2008 Minutes of the General Faculty Committee Meeting

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**Members In attendance:** Chair Laurie Zoloth, Vice Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Jian Cao, John Elson, Anupam Garg, Donna Jurdy, Seth Lichter, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, Helen Thompson, Sylvia Wang

**Introduction:** Chair Laurie Zoloth called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and welcomed everyone. In light of several new GFC members, all present introduced themselves to the group.

### **1. Approval of September and October meeting minutes**

The minutes of the September 24th and October 15th meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

### **2. Review of Senate Meeting, Process and steps for going forward**

Laurie Zoloth presented highlights from the October 28<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting. The University meeting began with an informative presentation from President Bienen regarding the state of the university in light of the current economic situation. Following the President's report, Laurie Zoloth presented to the faculty body the faculty governance initiative. There were mixed reactions from both the faculty and the administrators.

#### ***Going forward:***

The GFC would like to be involved in and become more informed of the university budget process and will reestablishing the budget sub-committee for this purpose. After a lengthy discussion on the subsequent plan of action for further advancing the faculty governance reform document, the following actions will be taken.

1. A BLOG entry will be set up for faculty members giving them full access to the governance document and enabling them to make comments and suggestions.
2. The GFC will send out an email to all departmental chairs university wide presenting them with the new faculty governance document and also extending the offer to have a GFC representative attend a departmental meeting to further elaborate on the details of the initiative.
3. The GFC plans to host two informal Senate meetings in January 2009, one in Chicago and one in Evanston, to allow faculty members an opportunity to give input and also to be involved in the revision of the current governance reform document.
4. A Faculty Senate meeting will be held in February for a first reading of the governance reform document, in preparation for a second reading at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Spring Senate Meeting. This will meet protocol requirements for passing a Faculty Senate initiative.

5. There will be constant electronic follow-up.
6. A second survey monkey Bulk email will be sent to the whole faculty body, asking for additional opinions on a variety of items.

### **3. Board of Trustees Meeting planning**

Laurie Zoloth encouraged all GFC members to attend the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>. After briefly going over the BOT meeting protocol, GFC members discussed the following options for meeting topics.

Theme: Leadership in an age of crisis what is the role of a great university to America?

1. How a great university takes on social leadership
2. International Responsibilities
3. The crisis of the economy
4. The crisis of the global environment

### **4. CIC Meeting report - Donna Jurdy**

Donna Jurdy talked about the topics discussed at the recent CIC meeting she attended, as a representative of Northwestern University. Academic freedom, faculty censure and potential job loss, was a major topic. How institutions are treating the growing lecturer instructor category was another topic. Finally, low faculty governance participation in the arts and sciences is a common occurrence at many universities, including at NU.

### **In Conclusion:**

- Laurie Zoloth would like GFC members to develop the topic of academic freedom and censorship for presentation at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting.
- John Elson will continue to work on the Ombudsman initiative.
- GFC members will email Laurie Zoloth with suggestion of non-GFC faculty members who should attend the December 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting.
- The next GFC meeting will be held on December 3, 2008, at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Edited by: Laurie Zoloth

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members