

GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

December 02, 2009

Members In attendance: Chair Stephen Eisenman, Chair-elect William Ocasio, Paul Arntson, Jack Doppelt, Scott Durham, Joshua Hauser, Andrew Koppelman, Eva Lam, Seth Lichter, Alan Sahakian, Babette Sanders, Tamar Seideman, Helen Thompson, Sylvia Wang, Laurie Zoloth

1. Greetings and Introduction: GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. New and returning General Faculty Committee members introduced themselves to the group.

2. Approval of minutes of November 4, 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the November 4, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

3. William Ocasio to resume position as GFC Chair-elect

Prior to the meeting, William Occasion sent an email to rescind his resignation as GFC chair-elect. Stephen Eisenman expressed his approval of the resignation withdrawal and opened the floor for discussion. GFC members were also not opposed to reinstating William Occasion, therefore he will resume his role as the GFC chair-elect for academic year 2009-10.

4. Further discussion of governance documents

A motion was made, and seconded, to limit the debate on each amendment to five minutes, with an additional vote to extend any discussion. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was passed.

Amendment 1: Bylaws of Faculty Senate (Senate Bylaws, Article III, Section 2)

A motion was made, and seconded, to amend Senate Bylaws, Article III Section 2 to state: *“The Chair Elect must be selected from Faculty Senate members who are serving in the first year of their elected term. The Senate has the authority to remove the Chair by a majority vote. If the Chair is recalled, the Immediate Past Chair will assume the functions of the Chair.”* The floor was opened for a five minute

discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was not passed.

Amendment 2: Review of senior administrators (Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 5)

A motion was made, and seconded, to amend Senate Bylaws Article I Section 5 to state: A) *“The Faculty Senate will represent the faculty in any revisions to the Faculty Handbook.”* B) *“The Faculty Senate will develop criteria for evaluating the performances of senior university administrators in consultation with said administrators. This evaluation shall be carried out once every year by all full-time tenured faculty members, and non-tenured faculty members with four or more years of full-time service. The Faculty Senate shall supervise this evaluation and distribute its results to the evaluating faculty and the administrators evaluated.”* The floor was opened for a five minute discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was not passed.

Amendment 3: Authority to set agenda for University Assembly meetings (Assembly Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2)

A motion was made, and seconded, to amend Assembly Bylaws, Article IV Section 2 by appending the following to the section: *“This agenda will be established by the Faculty Senate Chair in consultation with the University President or his or her designate. An item can also be placed on the agenda by petition of at least 100 members of the University Assembly, provided such petition is conveyed to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate at least six weeks prior to a meeting.”* The floor was opened for a five minute discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was not passed.

Amendment 4: Selection of slate for presidential and provost search committees (Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 6)

A motion was made, and seconded, to amend the last sentence of the Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 6 to state: *“At least 50% of the search committee shall be comprised of members from this slate.”* The floor was opened for a five minute discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was not passed.

Amendment 5: Election for 4 year Faculty Leadership Position

A motion was made, and seconded, to amend the faculty leadership election process to include election for four year faculty leadership position. The floor was opened for a five minute discussion and a short debate ensued. A motion was made, and seconded, to extend the debate for two additional minutes. At the conclusion of the discussion, the original motion was withdrawn from the floor for further review by the Faculty Governance Subcommittee.

Amendment 6: Review of Senior Administrators (Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 5) as new section 10 in Article I of Faculty Senate Bylaws

A motion was made, and seconded, to amend Senate Bylaws, Article I with the addition of Section 10 which states: *“The Faculty Senate will conduct periodic assessments (sans “by the Faculty”) of the educational, research, administrative, and shared governance functions of the University.”* The floor was opened for a five minute discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted, and the motion was passed.

Amendment 7: Faculty to serve on presidential and provost search committees (Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 6)

The motion to amend Senate Bylaws, Article I, section 6 to state: *“At least 50% of the search committee should be [not shall be] comprised of members from this slate”* was presented and withdrawn.

Amendment 8: Faculty to serve on presidential and provost search committees (Senate Bylaws, Article I, Section 6)

The motion to amend Senate Bylaws, Article I, section 6 to state: *“At least 50% of the search committee should be [not shall be] comprised of members from this slate”* was presented and withdrawn.

Faculty Representation:

General Faculty members discussed the details of issues pertaining to faculty representation in the proposed governance structure. One major issue identified by several members was the challenge in getting accurate data from the administration on the number of faculty members within programs and centers. The Faculty Governance Subcommittee will proactively continue to work with the administration to get this critical information.

5. Trustees/GFC Meeting on December 5th

Stephen Eisenman gave background and historic information on the annual Board of Trustees meeting and encouraged all GFC members to attend. He also announced that the length of the meeting has been shortened by one hour. On the recommendation of several GFC members, and former BOT meeting attendees, Stephen Eisenman will give a short presentation to the Board of Trustees on the Faculty Governance initiative.

6. Report on the Ombudsman

Laurie Zoloth gave a brief update on the recently approved Ombudsman program and the anticipated course of action for implementation. A GFC subcommittee will be set up to support the Ombudsman program.

7. Report on Traffic on Sheridan Road

In response to recent tragic events related to Sheridan Road on the Evanston Campus, William Ocasio has been diligently working with the administration to resolve traffic safety issues, for both street vehicles and bicycles. William Ocasio, GFC Campus Safety Subcommittee Chair, gave a brief overview of the current plans to make Sheridan Road safer with the addition of stop lights in several dangerous Evanston campus zones. A motion was made, and seconded, to support the actions of the City Council with respect to the addition of city lights in Garrett and in the South Campus. General Faculty Committee members voted, and the motion was passed.

Conclusion

- The next GFC Meeting will be held on January 6, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members