

## **GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2010

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**Members In attendance:**

Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Jack Doppelt, Andrew Koppelman, Eva Lam, Seth Lichter, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, Aryeh Routtenberg, Babette Sanders, Helen Thompson

**Special Guest:** Provost Daniel Linzer

**1. Greetings and Introduction:** GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm, then welcomed everyone and thanked special guest Provost Daniel Linzer for agreeing to come and speak.

**2. Approval of minutes of January 6, 2010 Meeting**

The minutes of the January 6, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

**3. University Strategic Planning Framework Discussion with Provost Daniel Linzer**

In an effort to ensure the GFC's collaborative involvement with the administration in the planning process and implementation of the University Strategic Plan, Provost Daniel Linzer was invited to discuss the planning framework in detail. Stephen Eisenman asked Provost Linzer to talk about where the planning committees stand at this point and also what role the GFC could play in encouraging input from the faculty, as a whole, to the different planning committees.

Provost Linzer explained the process the administration used to solicit committee members and ideas from various university groups including faculty, staff, students and alumni, to guarantee equal representation from across the university. He described what the university hopes to accomplish through this initiative, including defining Northwestern University's areas of real distinction to invest in. Provost Linzer invited GFC members to forward ideas and comments. Additionally, Stephen Eisenman agreed to send Provost Linzer a plan outlining the process and feedback loop for soliciting more responses from departments.

#### **4. Reports of the Subcommittees**

*Childcare Subcommittee Report:* Andrew Koppelman, Childcare Subcommittee Chair, will draft a resolution, which will state that it is the sense of the faculty that there needs to be a childcare center on campus. The draft will be voted on at the March GFC meeting and, if passed, will be presented to the administration.

*Governance Subcommittee Report:* Stephen Eisenman reported that, at the January 28, 2010 Senate Meeting, Faculty Senate members voted 70 to 5 in favor of the Northwestern University Shared Governance document. As a follow-up to this announcement, Paul Arntson, Governance Subcommittee Chair, gave a brief overview of the proposed implementation strategy plan for the new Senate structure. He reminded everyone that the General Faculty Committee is fully responsible for implementing the new structure, including running membership elections. In order for the transition to be successful, current GFC members should continue serving in the new governance structure to ensure continuity of current initiatives such as Childcare, IRB Issues, etc. The GFC will also need to form a new subcommittee that looks at infrastructure support and faculty release time. GFC members discussed the implementation plan in detail and will continue to do so going forward in order to be fully prepared when the transition time comes.

Paul Arntson will draft a formal letter laying out the details for what the General Faculty Committee sees as the step to move ahead. Stephen Eisenman will review the document and forward it on to the President and Provost.

*Election Process in New Structure:* GFC Members presented ideas and discussed potential best practices for running a membership election in the new Faculty Senate structure. The current front runner of ideas is placing the election responsibility on department chairs. The process will begin with an electronic announcement from the Faculty Senate chair, or an appointed committee representative, to the chair of each department asking them to run a departmental election to choose a member to serve on the Faculty Senate. An electronic communication will also be sent to the faculty in case the department chairs are non-responsive. Additionally, GFC members liked the idea of having a web based electronic interface to be used as a voting mechanism for both making nominations and for voting. A subcommittee was formed and charged with the task of solidifying the election process procedures and, once the policies are established, to contact departments to initiate the election process sometime in

Fall 2010. The subcommittee will be headed by Paul Arntson, who will be joined by Babette Sanders and Jack Doppelt.

*Budget Subcommittee Report:* Sandro Mussa-Valdi, Budget Subcommittee Chair, would like an explanation from the administration about a recent report that features Northwestern University as one of the worst investors of endowment funds, which is counter to the administration's recent reports. He will seek out who is responsible for making investment decisions and what the structure is for how decisions, such as salary freezes, are made.

## **5. Living Wage Campaign**

Students who are spearheading the Living Wage Campaign asked Stephen Eisenman to sign a petition on behalf of the General Faculty Committee in support of the initiative, but before doing so, Stephen asked for the GFC's approval. Before making a final decision, the GFC will invite the student group leader, as well as a Northwestern Administrator, to the April GFC meeting to discuss the campaign in greater detail.

## **Conclusion**

- The next GFC Meeting will be held on March 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members