

GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2010

Members In attendance:

Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Jack Doppelt, Scott Durham, Anupam Garg, Joshua Hauser, Andrew Koppelman, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, Aryeh Routtenberg, Babette Sanders, Helen Thompson, Sylvia Wang, Laurie Zoloth

1. Greetings and Introduction: GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. He thanked everyone for their dedicated service to the committee this past year.

2. Approval of minutes of May 5, 2010 Meeting

The minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

3. Reports of the Subcommittees

Stephen Eisenman reminded all subcommittee chairs to submit a year-end report. This task is critical for passing along a dossier of activities to the new Faculty Senate.

4. Spring Senate Meeting – Thursday June 3rd

Stephen Eisenman reminded everyone about the Spring Faculty Senate meeting taking place on Thursday, June 3rd and strongly encouraged everyone to attend and to bring colleagues to this important gathering. At the meeting, students will be given five to ten minutes to present the Living Wage Campaign to the Faculty Senate. Andrew Koppelman will present the Childcare initiative and Stephen Eisenman will present information about e-verify. Additionally, Stephen will give an update on the governance initiative, giving Paul Arntson an opportunity to present the transition plan for the new Senate structure. Finally, Anupam Garg will report on the Budget subcommittee and ask the administration for full transparency in all university budgetary matters going forward. Anupam will also raise the faculty salary issue. GFC members discussed various strategies for presenting the salary issue to the Faculty Senate.

5. Living Wage Campaign

A motion was made, and seconded, that the General Faculty Committee expresses its support for the principle that all of its employees should be paid a living wage. The floor was opened for discussion and a lengthy debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted, and the motion was passed 11 to 2.

6. New Business

- There are several campus safety concerns. First, the NU shuttle has become unsafe for riders. Too few shuttles are available during peak times resulting in dangerously overcrowded vehicles. Second, there are many concerns about pedestrian safety on Sheridan Road. A lack of sufficient stop lights, as well as low visibility in some areas has resulted in many recent accidents, including one that was fatal.
- As the General Faculty Committee transitions into a new year, Stephen Eisenman challenged members to really think about how they want NU to be different. GFC members discussed several ideas, but the lack of unity across campuses is a major concern for everyone. There was a general consensus that building a sense of community is at the top of the wish list and providing opportunities for faculty to interact and get to know each other.

Conclusion

- The next GFC meeting will be held on October 6, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room at 601 University Place).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members