

GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 04, 2009

Members In attendance: Chair Stephen Eisenman (via teleconference), Paul Arntson, Jian Cao, Jack Doppelt, Anupam Garg, Joshua Hauser, Andrew Koppelman, Eva Lam, Seth Lichter, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, William Ocasio, Aryeh Routtenberg, Alan Sahakian, Helen Thompson

1. Greetings and Introduction: Standing in for GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman, who joined the group via teleconference, General Faculty Committee member Andrew Koppelman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and presided over all discussions. New and returning General Faculty Committee members introduced themselves to the group.

2. Approval of minutes of October 7, 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

3. Alternative November 4th Agenda

Prior to the GFC meeting and via email, a motion was made, and seconded, for a revised alternative agenda to be used for the GFC meeting. The floor was opened for discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was passed 10 to 3, with 1 member not yet present, in favor of using the revised document.

4. General Faculty Committee: Process and Procedures

General Faculty Committee members discussed the group's current decision making process, and procedures for the handling of initiatives and negotiations with the administration. There was debate over the level of authority and executive decision making power and negotiating responsibilities of the GFC chair and whether it is currently being exercised appropriately. The discussion focused on specific examples, that GFC members were able to comment on and present differing opinions on.

Going forward, GFC members will closely monitor how, and under what authority, initiatives are executed and decisions are made. If matters go off course, GFC members will determine at that time the course of action that is appropriate for the circumstance.

5. William Ocasio Steps down as GFC Vice chair for FY2009-10 and chair elect for FY2010-11

William Ocasio announced to the General Faculty Committee that he is resigning as the GFC Vice chair for FY2009-10 and chair elect for FY2010-11. He will, however, continue to serve on the GFC as a representative of the Kellogg School of Management.

6. Current Status of Governance Documents and next Steps in Revision of Governance Documents

General Faculty Members discussed several important aspects of the current governance document, including items of contention, items needing clarification and items needing revision. The following are main points from the discussion:

Defining “being present” and “electronic vote”: The challenge set before the GFC is to fully define and clarify the terms “being present” and “electronic vote.” Paul Arntson and members of the Faculty Governance subcommittee will draft language addressing these critical items and will circulate the document, via email, in preparation for a full discussion at the December 2nd GFC meeting.

Removal of “consultative”: Many GFC members are concerned with the inclusion of the term “consultative” and would like for it to be removed from the governance document.

Proposed amendments 1, 2 and 3: A motion was made, and seconded, to discuss the following amendments 1, 2, and 3, but due to time constraints only amendment 1 was discussed:

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

Amendment 1:

- 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 presentation of proposed amendment 1 resulted in a lengthy discussion in which many

ideas and opinions were presented. Paul Arntson and the Governance subcommittee will draft language for the inclusion of ideas related to amendment 1.

The following amendments were on hand but not discussed:

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

Amendment 2:

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.

Selection of slate for presidential and provost search committees (Senate Bylaws, Article I, Sec. 6):

Amendment 3:

Move that the last sentence of the section in question be changed to *“At least 50% of the search committees shall be comprised of members from this slate.”*

Bylaws of Faculty Senate (Article III Section 2): **Current form:** Article III Section 2: The Chair Elect must be selected from Faculty Senate members who are serving in the first year of their elected term.

Amendment 4:

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.

7. December GFC Meeting with the Board of Trustees

GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman briefly described the process by which the current Board of Trustees agenda came about. The theme for the meeting will be a review of the mission statement approach, which is not the theme of “Democracy” originally proposed by the GFC.

A motion was made, and seconded, to accept the current BOT agenda set by the administration as the framework for the Board of Trustees meeting, because it gives the GFC an opportunity to partake in the discussion of the future of Northwestern University. The floor was opened for discussion and a short debate ensued. General Faculty Committee members voted and the motion was passed 11 to 2, with 1 abstention, in favor of using the revised document.

Additionally, GFC members strongly expressed their disappointment and disapproval of the shortened meeting time, which Chair Stephen Eisenman has agreed to pass along to the administration.

Conclusion

- The next GFC Meeting will be held on December 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall room 201 (the Ripton Room).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members