

GENERAL FACULTY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2010

Members In attendance: Chair Stephen Eisenman, Paul Arntson, Jack Doppelt, Andrew Koppelman, Eva Lam, Ferdinando Mussa-Ivaldi, Babette Sanders, Tamar Seideman, Helen Thompson, Laurie Zoloth

1. Greetings and Introduction: GFC Chair Stephen Eisenman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. Approval of minutes of June 2, 2010 Meeting

The minutes of the June 2, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously and will be posted to the GFC website.

3. Should there be a Fall Senate Meeting?

GFC members discussed whether or not to schedule a Fall Senate meeting. Since it was determined that at this time there is only one pressing matter for the Senate to discuss, the meeting will be postponed until after the new Faculty Senate is in place and ready to hold the first meeting of the Assembly. The pressing issue of deciding on the Honorary Degree will be vetted by the GFC, if the administration approves.

4. Governance initiative - planning of final rollout phase

GFC members discussed the current state of the Faculty Senate membership list, which has a significantly large number of vacancies. Department Chairs will be given a few more weeks to conduct their departmental election and, no less than one week before the November 1st deadline, an email reminder will be sent to those departments that still have empty membership seats.

Stephen Eisenman raised the issue of how to organize the Faculty Senate including the agenda, meeting locations, dates and times, communication, and, most importantly, the election of the new Faculty Senate Chair. In late November or early December a memo will be sent to the Faculty Senate asking members to nominate themselves or others for the Senate Chair seat. The results will be compiled into a master dossier that will include a short bio and picture of each nominee. The dossier will be

distributed to all members of the Faculty Senate in advance of the January meeting. At this first Senate meeting each nominee will speak briefly and then members of the Faculty Senate will be asked to vote for the new Senate Chair.

The main role of the General Faculty Committee in organizing the Faculty Senate is to prepare a firm agenda for the first meeting in January, to be in active communication with the new Faculty Senate members, and to determine what the solid subcommittees are. The Governance subcommittee was given the responsibility of generating a list of potential committees for the Faculty Senate. Additionally, GFC members agreed that having two meeting venues, one in Chicago (Wieboldt) and one in Evanston (Pancoe), is a great way to ensure a greater number of Senate attendees and more participation.

Apprehension over sufficient training for the Ombudsman representatives led to a discussion about creating an Ombudsman oversight committee in the new Faculty Senate structure. The formation of this committee will be spearheaded by the Governance subcommittee. The Ombudsman would report directly to this committee. Additionally, committee members would be charged with data collection to be used as a tool for measuring the success of the initiative and for reporting back to the Faculty Senate.

5. Faculty Handbook

Stephen Eisenman will send the administration a strong reminder that the Faculty Handbook initiative will be taken up by the new Faculty Senate body.

6. Forming a Committee on Cause

The administration has asked Stephen Eisenman to form a Committee on Cause, in preparation for an impending case. The Committee on Cause is responsible for reviewing cases of faculty who are being disciplined for cause and it is the responsibility of the GFC Chair to institute this committee when necessary.

7. Themes for March 11th Board of trustee meeting

The December meeting with the Board of Trustees has been cancelled and rescheduled for March 11, 2010. The meeting structure has also changed and is now a shorter lunch meeting in the Lurie Building on the Chicago Campus. GFC members did not approve of these changes and were dismayed at this decision. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Stephen Eisenman will draft a letter to the

administration, which will first be distributed to the GFC for input, addressing the concern over these substantive meeting changes.

8. COIA Meeting - Chicago, January 21-23

Laurie Zoloth announced the upcoming COIA meeting taking place in Chicago, on January 21-23. Since this is not directly related to the GFC and Northwestern University representatives from other parts of the university are already attending, the GFC has decided not to attend this year.

9. New Business

Ombudsman Program: The administration has provided an office and a budget for the Ombudsman program.

Conclusion and reminders

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Diana Snyder

Minutes Approved by: General Faculty Committee members