

Minutes from the General Faculty Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Present:

Dawn Anderson, Virginia Carter, Jean Collier, Robin Kuzen, , Lotta Lofgren, Pam McIntyre, Barbara Millar, Jennie Moody, Peter Norton, Dawn Rigney, Lynda White (for Phil Gates), Eleanor Wilson, John Wilson

Absent:

Kay Buchanan, Dahlia French, Phil Gates, James Groves, Bill Keene, Kevin King, Aaron Laushway, Breyette Lorntz

Visitors:

Mary Abouzeid, Eileen Oswald, Simonetta Liuti, Christine Patrick

1. Call to Order:

Jennie Moody called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Members introduced themselves and Jennie welcomed visitors.

2. Secretary's and Treasurer's Report from December 2006:

Members from the GFC approved the minutes. Peter Norton moved to approve the minutes. Pam MacIntyre second the motion. No one opposed.

Ellie confirmed that the GFC Chair is an exoficio member of the Faculty, Retention and Welfare Committee, a committee of the Faculty Senate.

Robin confirmed that we have \$2,956 available balance.

3. Chair's Report:

a. Review of GFC Resolutions:

- Jennie raised the issue that we need a very clear effort to examine the GFC Resolutions as stated on the website, and consider revising them and updating the website to reflect these revisions. She proposed that we form a committee to take this initiative on. Lotta Lofgren proposed that the Executive Committee address this issue. Jennie urged the GFC formulate a plan to do this soon. Jennie stated that the next Executive Committee will review this issue.
- John Wilson asked about Robert's Rules on this issue. How do we know when the resolutions are resolved? Jennie stated that some of the resolutions have been addressed, with the recommended action taken. Lotta Lofgren noted that the content of the annual report, summarizing work and accomplishments and available by links on the website now, would be one way to reflect the current state of the resolutions. Several

members noted that the GFC website should still have historical memory of the resolutions, possibly through an archiving system.

- Jean proposed adding Status to each of the resolutions. Jennie suggested listing Accomplishments. Pam suggested that a next step could be informing our constituents of these Accomplishments. . The executive committee will make a recommendation on this issue after its next meeting.
- b. Posting of Demographic Information on the GFC Website
- Jennie Moody suggested that the GFC website offer some quick glance at the numbers. Jennie suggested that GFC members vote on whether we would post demographic information on the website. A discussion ensued on what kind of demographic information is posted, and how it is displayed, and whether to include past data. Jennie noted that this data is used by others (e.g. Chronicle of Higher Education article, President Casteen address to A&S Faculty on the departure of Dean Ayers), and should be kept current. Lotta Lofgren motioned that the GFC post demographic data on the GFC website and the Executive Committee determine what data is displayed and how it is displayed and that it is updated yearly. Peter Norton seconded the motion. No opposed. Barbara Millar stressed that we cite our sources for any information we post. She also suggested including this link in an email communication to the gf-roster so they are aware of this information on the website.
- c. Recent communication from constituents after policy committee letter was distributed to gf-roster
- Jennie tabled this item.

4. Old Business:

- a. Professional Development Issue as raised by Lotta Lofgren in December meeting
- Jennie suggested that we look at structure of the current committees, and charge committee's with active work. Lynda White noted that originally the committee structure was formed out of need to run the GFC and over time Policy Committee became overloaded with numerous policies that relate to other committees. Jennie suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to address this issue or consider folding PD issue into a survey to identify responses by school and department and query what PD opportunities are available to them and what they might like made available to them. How do we address PD opportunities for constituents before we know what opportunities they have/need? Barbara asked what is the purpose of finding this information out? Peter Norton noted the importance of finding out this information; it gives credibility to needs of constituents, and could possibly level the playing field. Jennie noted that the Resolution on the website should be updated, describing our intended actions (eg., survey, report).
 - Jennie offered to pose a revision to the Professional Development Resolution that she will take it to the Executive Committee, and noted that

action on this item might be possibly folded into the work of the Communications Committee.

- Lotta Lofgren noted that she invited Gertrude Fraser, Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement, to the next Policy Committee meeting to discuss this issue.
- d. Update on the survey being developed by the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Recruitment, Retention, and Welfare
- Members of this committee are still developing the survey, and Jennifer Harvey (Chair) was very encouraging about including general faculty in this survey. Jennie suggested that the Executive Committee create questions and send them to this committee.

5. New Business

a. New Resolution Proposal

- Jennie suggested that the GFC vote on drafting a new resolution that addresses faculty governance. Barbara Millar suggested that we wait to see the results of the Faculty Senate Survey. Ellie Wilson noted that we may dilute our efforts if we send out a survey at the same time or close to their survey. Ellie suggested that our survey could be an effective follow up to the Faculty Senate Survey. Lotta suggested that the Faculty Senate sanction our survey.
- Jennie proposed that we could get a quick snap shot if each GFC member could determine rules of participation for their individual departments, and report on these at the next GFC meeting. Barbara Millar suggested we do this by school for the schools we represent. Discussion ensued, with confusion about just what we are trying to discern. Pam suggested that Peter send an email out to the GFC asking specific questions about governance structure, effectively a trial-like survey that only council members would take. Peter and Jennie agreed to iterate on a set of questions to be distributed to the GFC.

b. AAUP Representative Invitation

- Peter contacted Brian Turner, state director of Virginia, over break to ask if he could attend a future GFC meeting. Mr. Turner said he could attend a January meeting, but declined the offer to attend the other spring meetings. We did not have adequate advance note to add him to our January meeting. He offered, however, to address the GFC at another time

c. GFC participation in AAUP/Virginia General Assembly forum 1/11/2007 in Richmond

- Jennie asked whether we wanted to have someone attend this meeting. She reminded everyone of the new University policy on communicating with government officials (dated 10/18/06), the relevant passage being , and Pam MacIntyre reiterated the importance of this precaution. Jennie noted that she could not attend, and asked if Peter was planning to participate. Peter wanted to inform GFC of this meeting, but could not attend. . Mary

Abouzeid offered to attend this meeting if it did not conflict with her other commitment in Richmond on Thursday.

6. Committee Reports (no reports)

7. Executive Committee Meeting November 20th

- Jennie proposed that the Executive Committee meet on February 7 at noon, she will send out a location. 12 p.m.

8. Meeting Adjournment

- Jennie adjourned meeting at 1:35 p.m. She reminded members that the next meeting is Wednesday, February 14, 2007 in Newcomb Hall 168.