

Minutes of the General Faculty Council meeting held on January 11, 2005.

Present: Robin Kuzen, chair, Jennifer Bauerle, John Wilson, Lotta Löfgren, Camilla Curnow, Bill Keene, Ellie Wilson, Carol Hunter, Derry Wade, Elaine Attridge, Greg Strickland, Prue Thorner.

Guests: Lynda White, Mary Beth Knight, School of Nursing.

1. President's Report:

Robin stated that our operating budget stands at \$6204. Michael Smith and Angela Davis will present their report on diversity at our March 8 meeting.

Robin also reported on the deliberations of the Faculty Senate on charter status. She said that other universities and colleges in Virginia are coming forward to join the process which is now being considered as a four-step procedure. The Faculty Senate is most concerned about maintaining academic excellence and the public service mission of the University, the importance of diversity of admissions and the overall quality of the student body, that there should not be two employment tiers, and that the Senate should have some input into governance of the University.

1. Derry reported that there will be six seats on the GFC vacant for election this spring. She presented a postcard that will be sent to every general faculty member to heighten awareness of their status and inviting their participation, which met with approval. A press release on the election will be issued in about two weeks' time.
2. Bill Keene reported on the meeting that he and Prue had with Ariel Gomez and David Hudson on the need for pan-University financing of temporary disability leave, and for eligibility for benefits after a temporary break in employment due to lapses in external funding. Prue will ask HR for data on the annual number of such claims and the total cost to the University in a typical year. If this is a manageable amount, Ariel Gomez is willing to support this change.
3. Break out sessions were held on the resolutions on professional development and benefits to find further ways to move these issues forward.

The next GFC meeting will be held on Tuesday February 8 at 12:00 pm.