

Minutes from the General Faculty Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2011
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
Newcomb Hall, Room 481

Representatives Present: Cassandra Blassingame (by proxy) Penny Bowles, Addeane Calleigh, Ryan Carter, Anne Ingram, Barbara Kessler (by proxy) Aaron Laushway, Catherine Leslie, Teresa Lockhard, Pam MacIntyre, Barbara Millar, Peter Norton, Bethany Nowviskie, Ricky Patterson, Wendy Sue Sewack (by proxy) Jeff Sittler, Colleen Smith, Steven Lewis Warner

Representatives Absent: Denise Karaoli, Katherine Reid, Michael Smith

Guests: Patty Froggett, Donna Klepper, Butch Jefferson, Richard Floyd, Susan Carkeek, Volker Kiessling, Craig Rumpel, Barbara Groves, Susan Chisholm, Diddy Morris, Carrie Douglass, Otilie Austin, Ellie Wilson, Kari Evans, Eliza Gilligan,

Preliminaries

1. 12:00 Gathering of Members

2. 12:10 Call to Order

3. Presentations

Barbara introduced Susan Carkeek, Vice President for Human Resources, who offered background about Governor McDonnell's proposed budget recommendation and how it effects University of Virginia faculty and staff. Highlights of her remarks are as follows:

- Virginia Retirement System (VRS) currently has a \$17 billion shortfall. VRS has been underfunded for several years due to investment performance and the state's contributing less what was recommended.
- On December 17, Governor McDonnell proposed that state employees contribute 5 percent of their pre-tax to assist funding the retirement plan. To offset this contribution, he called for a 3 percent salary increase for VRS members. IF both houses of the General Assembly approve the proposal, it would be the first time in 27 years that long-time state workers would be asked to share in funding the VRS.
- The Optional Retirement plan would also be affected. The employer contribution will be reduced from 10.4 to 8.5 percent. The option for the employer to supplement the contribution up to 8.9% (as is currently allowed under the ORP Plan 2) would be retained.
- This impacts faculty and staff hired on or after July 1, 2010 because they already contribute 5 percent to their plans.

Susan stated that the 3% increase did not apply to people in the Optional Retirement Plan. She also stated that the administration hosted a forum in December and employees present expressed their concern. President Sullivan spoke up quickly at this event acknowledging her concern for the situation.

Susan Carkeek noted that the concept of furloughing staff was the first attempt to reduce the budget. This budget reduction is the second attempt.

Susan Carkeek also stated that the Virginia General Assembly has their hands full. There is no stimulus money this year. All states are struggling. The public sector lags the private sector. The VRS fund is in serious jeopardy and something has to be done.

The Provost Employee Council presented a Resolution in an effort to seek an endorsement from the GFC. They provided background about what led them to prepare their this Resolution which was voted on and passed unanimously at their last meeting. The Resolution is going to be delivered to President Sullivan for her review.

The question for the council became, should they write a similar Resolution or just endorse the PEC resolution. The GFC determined that they do a combination of both, and do it quickly. Discussion ensued. It was put to vote that the GFC provide the PEC with an endorsement of their Resolution, with an additional statement that includes the Optional Retirement Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 1:10 Committee Reports

- Data Management – Ricky Patterson, Chair
It was noted that Data Management impacts the Election Committee report. The data is ready. George Stovall has provided lists of members to the GFC. Ricky Patterson reported the statistics of the GFC which indicate a drop in numbers due to faculty transferring to university staff.
- Elections – Jeff Sitler, Chair
Jeff reviewed the election process. He stated that the links are fixed. Nominations are due on February 18, which are 5 ½ weeks from this date. Discussion ensued about communication to recruit candidates for the open positions of the GFC. Jeff stated that he will observe the election process closely to make sure that the word is getting out. There was discussion about the difficulty of having a live link to members, instead of having to drill down. It was agreed that it could be done simply.

Jeff will get an email out to GFC by January 14, then to point of contact by January 20. Then we will wait a couple of weeks to see responses.

- Communications – Aaron Laushway and Steve Warner, Co-Chairs
A spring event featuring President Sullivan is being planned. It will likely be on a Thursday afternoon and will feature overall comments followed by Q&A, then a meet and greet with the General Faculty. It was suggested that we also add a professional development event on retirement. It was noted that there is \$4,500 in the budget for such events.
- Policy – Peter Norton, Chair
Peter reviewed policy activities that were being reviewed by the Faculty Senate. He noted that there was a policy proposal on purchasing from local vendors and getting reimbursed. UVa wants this to be done by departments, not by individuals. Faculty Senate had pushback on this, especially people in the Sciences. Now there is an emergency exemption if you have to address something in an emergency situation. No sales tax, gas reimbursement, etc. Everyone should read memos that are coming from Eric Denby.

5. Other Business

- Colleen Smith reported on her visit to the Provost employee Council before the holidays. She noted that they described a quarterly meeting that all the employee council chairs attended with Leonard Sandridge and felt that perhaps the GFC should be represented there as well. The purpose of the meeting was more to hear from the administration so that that information could be carried back to the councils.

- The question was raised, how can we best serve the council. It was noted that there are two people at Darden who went through the transition from GF to University Staff. Do they feel that they are represented? If they have an issue, where would they go for representation? These questions continue to be asked. When will enrollment be for switching to university staff and what are the cost benefits?

6. 1:30 Adjournment

Next meeting, Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Location: Newcomb Hall, Room 481