

Minutes from the General Faculty Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Newcomb Trial Room

Present

Dawn Anderson, Otilie Austin, Beth Blanton-Kent, Virginia Carter, Phil Gates, James Groves, Kevin King, Robin Kuzen, Teresa Lockard, Pam MacIntyre, Barbara Millar, Jennie Moody, Peter Norton, Ricky Patterson, Ellen Ramsey

Absent

Jean Collier, David Glover, Aaron Laushway, Marshall Pattie

Guests

Megan Davis, Kelly Jordan, Bill Keene, Patrick Valentine, Lynda White

Preliminaries

1. 12:00 **Gathering of Members**
2. 12:10 **Call to Order**
 - Peter Norton called the meeting to order.

Old Business

3. 12:10 **The Council's letter of March 3**

On March 3, 2008, a letter was sent to the Provost Garson regarding the general faculty issues brought to light by the resignation of Jill Hartz. The General Faculty Council received a polite response. Submission of the letter led to the resignation of David Wolcott. David was out of town when the letter was drafted and unable to respond to the draft. He did not approve of the language in the letter. GFC will have to hold a special election to fill the vacancy left by David.

New Business

4. 12:15 **Faculty Senate Task Force on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty: composition and charge**

Seven people have been named to the Faculty Senate Task Force on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty. There are two representatives of the General Faculty Council: Peter Norton and Lotta Lofgren. Ellie Wilson, also a general faculty member is on the task force from the Faculty Senate. Peter distributed the charge to the committee which is to look at the instructional and research faculty policies. The task force and its charge were a result of the general faculty responses to the survey conducted by the Faculty Senate. The survey and the underlying data will be posted to the Faculty Senate website. The first meeting of the task force is March 28, 2008. There was discussion around the intent of the task force and concerns about what this might mean for the general faculty status.
5. 12:50 **Annual General Faculty Council Lunch**

Pam MacIntyre agreed to organize this year's annual General Faculty Council lunch. It will be held May 21, 2008 at the Boar's Head Inn.
6. 12:55 **Elections**

Elections are currently being held and voting will continue through Tuesday, March 18, 2008. We still need a representative from the Engineering School. There was someone who expressed interest – Peter will follow up with him. So far, there have been over 100 votes.
7. 1:00 **Other Business**

Bill Keene handed out the Resolution on Climate Commitment adopted by the Faculty Senate. Universities around the world have taken the initiative to push this issue forward. The University of Virginia is behind its peer institutions and other ACC schools with regard to this issue. The resolution calls for the University to substantially elevate its commitment to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. It calls for the University to consider endorsing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC, posted at www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org). There was a motion from Peter Norton to endorse the resolution. Dawn Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In other business, there is confusion regarding voting rights in the College. The by-laws in the College state that full-time academic faculty at the level of assistant professor or above can vote for Faculty Senate representation. Faculty in lower level titles can vote after three years. The Dean's interpretation is that no general faculty can vote until after being here for three years. It was suggested that the College representatives to the Council and Peter meet with the Dean to discuss. Peter agreed to schedule the meeting.

Robin Kuzen reported that the General faculty Council has \$2,274 in its budget,

Committees

8. 1:15

Committee Reports

- Parking Committee: Ricky Patterson reported that the Parking Committee put together a report and met with Yoke San Reynolds. They are also planning to meet with Leonard Sandridge. The committee is conducting a survey with Parking and Transportation which should be going out in April.
- Policy Committee: Otilie Austin reported that the Policy Committee worked with Peter on the March 3 letter. They are also looking into apparent changes to the appointment letters to faculty. Future agenda items include salary equity and reviewing policy drafts. The Policy Committee includes Otilie as Chair, Jennie Moody, Kevin King and David Glover from the General Faculty Council and former Council members: Ellie Wilson, Bill Keene, Lynda White and Lotta Lofgren.
- Data Committee: David Wolcott was the Chair of the Data Committee so a replacement is needed. Ricky Patterson agreed to take over the management of the mail lists.
- There were no other committee reports.

9. 1:30

Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm, Room 481, Newcomb Hall