

Minutes of the General Faculty Council May 9, 2006

Present: Peter Norton, Lotta Lofgren, Bill Keene, Eleanor Wilson, Mark Ross, Phil Gates, John Wilson, Dawn Anderson, Breyette Lorntz, Pam MacIntyre, Virginia Carter, Dawn Rigney, Robin Kuzen, Kay Buchanan, Barbara Millar.

Chair Ellie Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Chair's report: Ellie welcomed everyone and urged all to contact her with any old or new business. She asked all members, old and new, to introduce themselves. During introductions, Peter Norton expressed a special thanks to Bill Keene for all his help with Peter's recent reappointment situation. Ellie then reminded everyone of the luncheon at the Boar's Head Inn on May 11 at noon. After some discussion, it was decided to move the meetings to Wednesdays in the fall. The meetings for the fall will be at noon on **September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13**. Ellie announced that the GFC will not meet in July and August; instead, all the committees should use that time to formulate goals for the upcoming year. Ellie said that her main priorities for the year as chair are to reinvigorate the committees and to increase publicity for the work of the Council.

Diversity Council: Ellie reported on the meeting in April of the Equity and Diversity council, chaired by Vice Provost Bill Harvey, which Ellie attended as Council representative. The Diversity Council articulated a major goal of creating greater diversity in the undergraduate applicant pool. Ellie told Mr. Harvey that the GFC is eager to help the Diversity Council, for example with the University's fall conference on Hurricane Katrina.

Update on the GFC-FS joint committee and FS actions: Bill Keene reported that despite some periods of inactivity, the joint committee now seems to be functioning more effectively; he urged all GFC members of the committee to think about goals for the upcoming year soon, and to schedule meetings well in advance. He also reminded the Council that the coming year's chair of the joint committee should be a member of the Council. Bill also reported that although Yoke San Reynolds denied a request by the GFC that all new policies have a 30-day comment period after posting and before adoption, the Faculty Senate has passed a similar request. As a result, the Faculty Senate will now be notified of all changes made to all policies pertaining to faculty. After some discussion, it was decided that Ellie, as Chair of the Council, should send a letter to Yoke San Reynolds requesting that the Council be afforded the same courtesy as the Faculty Senate – that the Council be informed of any planned changes to all future policies relevant in any way to the GFC before adoption of such changes. In addition, Bill informed the Council that the Faculty Senate is working on a new grievance policy that will include research faculty, which the current grievance policy does not do. The FS expects to vote on the policy at its next meeting. The Faculty Senate is creating policy and communications committees, along with faculty recruitment and retention committee; the GFC will request that the FS policy committee endorse the GFC's two resolutions

regarding research faculty. Bill also reported that the Faculty Senate is in the process of restructuring its meetings. Bill is planning to urge the Senate to adopt a resolution stating that all members who are eligible to serve on the Senate be allowed to vote in Senate elections. That is not currently the case.

Discussion of the general faculty policy document: Bill Keene reviewed a document created by the GFC's policy committee that articulates and comments on all the changes from the old policy document from 1997. Although some changes are improvements, the Council remains concerned about other changes. Bill requested a motion that the Council allow the policy committee to finalize the report (with input from the Council), distribute the report to the general faculty, and post it on the GFC website. Robin Kuzen so moved; Mark Ross seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.

Election of officers: Lotta Lofgren nominated Virginia Carter for Chair Elect; Robin Kuzen seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Dawn Rigney was unanimously elected Secretary for the upcoming year. We need to have elections to replace Gary Davis in the Health Professionals and Chris Elliot in student affairs, both of whom have resigned their positions with the University.

Next meeting: Ellie Wilson reminded everyone that the next meeting of the Council will be on June 13, at noon, in Newcomb 481.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lotta Lofgren

Below are the tentative committee assignments for 2005-2006. Please check to make sure your choice is correctly stated! And for those of you who haven't stated your preferences, please let Ellie know your wish as soon as you can!

1. Elections

Robin Kuzen (chair)
Pam MacIntyre

2. Policy

Lotta Lofgren (chair)
Peter Norton
Virginia Carter
Jean Collier

3. Data Management

Mark Ross (chair)
John Wilson
Kay Buchanan (website)

4. By-Laws

Phil Gates (chair)
Dawn Rigney

5. Communications (chair to be determined)

Bryette Lorntz
Dawn Anderson
Barbara Millar