

## **Minutes of the General Faculty Council meeting held on September 14, 2004.**

**Present were:** Robin Kuzen, chair, Derry Wade, Jennifer Bauerle, Dawn Rigney, Ellie Wilson, Lynda White representing Lotta Lofgren, Carol Hunter, Phil Gates (and representing Chris Milner), Bill Keene, Jean Collier, Elaine Attridge, Greg Strickland, Nancy Gansneder, Prue Thorner and Edward Murphy representing John Wilson.

**Absent:** Robbie Greenlee and Camilla Curnow. **Guest:** Alan Cohn, director of Employee Relations for Human Resources.

### **Chair's Report:**

Robin welcomed new member Dawn Rigney from the School of Nursing. She noted that at least three members had sent proxies because they were having trouble making a Tuesday meeting. There was discussion about choosing an alternative day/time for Council meetings. It was suggested that Robin poll Council members by e-mail so that a more acceptable time can be found for those who cannot be there at noon on Tuesdays. She stated that \$2730 remains in our operating budget.

Robin also asked Jennifer Bauerle to obtain a new roster of all general faculty so that meeting dates and other announcements can be e-mailed to our membership, and she asked Derry Wade to work on generating more candidates for Council elections next year, as well as ways to improve the diversity of the membership.

### **GFC Resolutions:**

There was further discussion of the resolutions the Council has developed on equity in salary increases between academic and general faculty; on bridge funding to support health insurance and temporary disability leave after external funding has lapsed, and on professional development opportunities. Robin reported that she and Jean Collier met with Gene Block and Anda Webb in August to make them aware that we will be pushing for the University to respond to these resolutions. Bill and Prue will meet with Ariel Gomez in October to inform him about the resolutions and to gain his support for them. Lynda White was asked to read the revised resolution on salary increase equity. Five of the six resolutions were passed unanimously. Bill Keene was asked to reword the resolution on the Temporary Disability Leave Benefit for General Faculty for a vote by e-mail.

### **Status of the Draft Policy on the General Faculty:**

Robin circulated copies of a letter she had written on behalf of the Council to President Casteen inquiring about the status of the draft Policy on the General Faculty, expressing our concerns about its status, and letting the President know about the resolution asking for an October 1 completion. Robin thanked Bill Keene, Lynda White, and Lotta Lofgren for their help with the letter. She did receive a very quick response from President Casteen saying that he had asked for an update on the status of the policy.

### **Charter University status:**

Robin raised the issue of the move to charter status. She summarized Leonard Sandridge's presentation on this on September 13, and distributed notes and charts from that meeting. She urged Council members to attend one of the upcoming sessions.

Council members recommended that information sessions should also be held for students because the new status will affect admission policies, tuition rates, and fees. Alan Cohn will relay this suggestion to Leonard. Carol Hunter agreed to organize the annual GFC Forum on the charter issue to give our members more opportunity for questions and answers. Greg Strickland spoke about the Hospital's move to autonomy and stressed the need for as much information and communication as possible. Particular concerns are likely to include staffing pattern changes and job security, the possibility of flexible working hours and the ability to access cash accrued in lieu of leave taken and retention of benefits. We will undertake a review of how charter status has impacted the University of Michigan prior to our next meeting, as a peer institution.

### **Questions for Gertrude Fraser**

Robin said that she, Lotta Lofgren (Chair of the Working Group on Professional Development), and Jean Collier (Chair-Elect) will meet with Gertrude Fraser, Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement before the October 12 Council Meeting. Robin asked for questions for Ms. Fraser for the October 12 meeting.

### **Other Business**

Carol Hunter reported on the current membership of the University Benefits Committee. Robin asked if Council Members would like to have the spring meetings at various sites around grounds like last year or if they preferred to meet in Newcomb Hall. The consensus was to meet in Newcomb Hall and only if it was unavailable to find an alternate location.

The next meeting of the GFC will be held on October 12, 2004 in Room 481 Newcomb Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Prue Thorner  
Secretary

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### **General Faculty Council Meeting Headlines:**

#### **September 14, 2004**

- **Promoting GFC Resolutions on salary increase equity, on bridge funding to support health insurance and temporary disability leave after external funding has lapsed, and on professional development opportunities. The GFC is taking these to the Provost and President asking for action.**
- **Charter Status – how this may impact General Faculty. The annual GFC Forum will allow for discussion on this major change in the University's status. Date and location TBA.**