

## **Minutes from the General Faculty Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 11, 2009**

12:00 noon – 1:30 pm  
Newcomb Hall Room 481

**Representatives Present** – Beth Blanton-Kent, Penny Bowles, Ryan Carter, Craig Decker, Jason Downer, Anne Ingram, Barbara Kessler, Aaron Laushway, Pam MacIntyre, Peter Norton, Ricky Patterson (Chair), Judith Reagan, Wendy Sewack, Jeff Sitler, Colleen Smith, Steve Warner

**Representatives Absent** – Ottlie Austin, Catherine Leslie, Barbara Millar, Marshall Pattie, Ellen Ramsey, Michael Smith

**Guests** – Marty Doherty, Sarah Wilcox Elliott (proxy for Barbara Millar), Ann Hamric, Bill Keene, Ellie Wilson

Preliminaries

1. 12:00 **Gathering of Members**

2. 12:10 **Call to Order**

Ricky Patterson, Chair, welcomed the members and guests and everyone introduced themselves.

### **Business**

3. 12:15 **Presentation**

Ricky Patterson, Chair, introduced Ann Hamric, Chair of the Faculty Senate and Nursing Professor, for an open discussion about Faculty Senate activities and potential collaborations between both organizations.

Ann Hamric outlined the Senate's priorities, which include continued work on the Senate's responsiveness to faculty constituents. They are also preparing to be a responsive partner to a new President.

The Faculty Senate is working on a proposal that would amend copyright policies for faculty who submit articles to peer-related journals. At this time faculty forfeit copyrights to their own work when they submit manuscripts for publication.

The academic affairs committee is working on a new degree program, and is also trying to close some programs.

Bill Keene leads the policy committee. This has been a very important committee that has been a joint venture between the Faculty Senate and the GFC.

The Research and Scholarship committee has worked on the Harrison awards. A question now is should there be a continuance of funding awards based on the current budget. We want to continue the program.

Faculty Senate Task Force Report on Non-Tenure Track Faculty (NTTF), which the GFC is familiar with because of the final report released this past summer. There seem to be inconsistencies whether or not all schools have shared the report below the dean's level, which was supposed to be the next

step in the process of disseminating the information. The council discussed whether this was or was not a problem for their schools. The question remains about the process of identifying a next step for what the GFC can do to either distribute the information to their departments, or form a committee within each school to mobilize the process for informing the NTTF of the work that has been done through the Faculty Senate Task Force Report on Non-Tenure Track Faculty. There are ways the GFC could raise a concern if this is a repeated theme in numerous departments.

Discussion of the history of the NTTF voting for Faculty Senate. Again there are inconsistencies across schools/units/departments in NTTF being offered the opportunity to vote in these elections. GFC member Judith Reagan stated that she had never received a ballot for Faculty Senate. Keene stated that until the last election, NTTF were not offered an opportunity to vote. The process of changing this took several years. Peter Norton stated that both the nomination and the voting process are issues. Ann Hamric commented that forming committees within the schools might be the best way to standardize the nomination process within each school. Peter Norton noted that part of the problem is that school deans leave these issues up to department chairs, and in some cases the chairs limit nominations to tenured faculty. Ann Hamric stated that a solution might be to meet with the members of the Faculty Senate within the schools and then meet with department chairs. The process is imbedded in the report. She recommended that we use the report to address the issues. Peter Norton acknowledged that this is good advice and the GFC should act on it.

Ricky Patterson asked the group if everyone was familiar with Open Access. Simply put, the topic of Open Access focuses on the authors rights to “peer-reviewed, scholarly articles published in journals and conference proceedings, not books, book chapters, poetry, commissioned articles popular articles, or other writings or works. Faculty who might wish to negotiate the rights with their publisher to deposit such works into the University repository would be allowed, but not required to do so.” (See the U.Va. Faculty Senate Resolution on Faculty Publications and Author’s Rights, April 2009 Meeting – Question and Answers.) It was expressed that it was helpful that so many people have gotten involved in this topic, but it is not a Faculty Senate issue, it is a Faculty issue. When an author submits a manuscript, there is a blanket form in which the author signs away all rights. The journal then owns the manuscript. We are not retaining the rights to our own work. The Faculty Senate Resolution is recommending a policy for UVA that would allow faculty to keep their own copyright to anything for a journal, but not books. It contains an opt out clause. NIH has already done this for publications paid for with NIH support. One year after publication, the final accepted manuscript would be placed into an open repository that is maintained by the library and which anyone can access. This is a significant concern to the humanities, because these are people who write with people from other institutions, and also because many small humanities journals depend on paper download charges for their survival. The Faculty Senate task force continues to work on this topic. All departments need to get up to speed on this issue,

especially if scholarly writing is conducted. Beth Blanton-Kent agreed that everyone should be well versed on this topic.

Ellie Wilson commented that she supports the continuation of the joint committee between the Faculty Senate and the GFC. It is a valuable conduit and the open dialogue between the two groups is important. Pam MacIntyre agreed, saying that it gives the GFC a face. Without the standing committee, it would be much tougher to get things done.

Ann Hamric agreed that open movement back and forth between the two groups is important. The Faculty Senate is sensitive to faculty workload. Budget cuts are affecting everyone. They put out a call for a variety of committees, including the joint committee, and didn't have any volunteers for the joint committee. Making time to conduct the work of the Faculty Senate has been a big issue this year.

Bill Keene explained that he chaired the joint committee for two years. The Council had a number of policy issues, but was not successful getting support from the Faculty Senate. But it led to some of the changes that we are seeing now. Meeting to talk over things is not a good use of people's time. Not arguing one way or the other. It has a lot to do with the vigor of the chair. He doesn't know what we can do to get the Faculty Senate interested. Ann Hamric asked if there are there issues that we can focus on together? The NTTF has imbedded issues. It could move things forward, but someone has to step up to the plate and do it.

An alternative model could be the liaising model of the policy committee. Ricky Patterson explained that the Faculty Senate met regularly, and the meetings are open. By reporting back we can keep apprised of what is going on with the Faculty Senate, but the GFC wants the Senate to also be aware of what the GFC is doing as well.

Ann Hamric stated that the Cavalier Daily is a prime form of communication between the two groups.

Discussion ensued about ways to for the groups to further their communication. Ann Hamric noted that her attendance at the GFC was very helpful. She would take that issue back to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Having the Faculty Senate Chair at a GFC meeting once a year is something that should be continued.

Hamric noted that we are going to have a change in administration. It will be very interesting to see what that means for some of our structures at the university. This might be something to take a look at trying to create some liaisons between committees as well as having the annual meeting with the Faculty Senate chair. It is critical for faculty engagement and trust and moving forward with any administrative leader.

When asked about formalizing the integration between both groups through an amendment to the bylaws, Ann Hamric responded that the Faculty Senate bylaws are general and will remain that way. But continuing the dialogue, if we want to codify in writing that makes sense, but the task needs to wait until we have the new leadership.

#### Other Business

#### 4. 1:15 **Self-Assessment Requirements**

Discussion about the new LEAD requirements began, the question being who is required to participate in the program. It was suggested that we get a committee together quickly to determine the requirement is for Administrative and Professional faculty to participate in the program. There seemed to be a wide discrepancy of information between schools and departments. The question is, if it is optional for us to participate, when will it not be optional. Barbara Kessler stated that Continued and Professional Studies went to HR to override some of the processes.

The Nursing School was a pilot site for this program and the 2009 self-assessment was optional, but in 2010 it would not be optional.

It was suggested that we use the Collab site to discuss what each represented area is doing about this.

#### Committees

#### 5. 1:20 **Committee Reports**

- Policy – (Peter Norton) – The Policy committee will be scheduling a meeting late next week. Members of the Policy committee were asked to remain after the meeting for a few minutes.
- Bylaws – Nothing to report
- Communications – (Terry Lockhart/Barbara Millar) – Nothing to report since the last meeting. They are drafting a letter to the presidential search committee.
- Data Management – (David Glover) Waiting for list from George Stovall to see who we are.
- Elections – (Ellen Ramsey) Nothing to Report
- Senate Council Joint Committee – Encourage anyone to attend upcoming Faculty Senate meetings

#### 6. 1:30 **Adjournment**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 9, 2009, Newcomb 481 at noon.