

GENERAL FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

12:00 - 1:30pm

Alderman Library, Scholars' Lab

Present

Council Members: G. Saathoff, J. Sitler, C. Smith, J. Stertzler, M. Slon, A. Harraway, A. Ingram, D. Gioeli, B. Nowviskie, B. Kessler, D. Karaoli, J. Lannigan, P. Walsh.

Guests: Ali Hazel, *Dialogue Across Grounds*

1. The meeting was called to order by Bethany Nowviskie. A quorum was established.
2. Minutes from the January 12, 2013 meeting were approved.

Guest presentation:

Ali Hazel, a second-year undergraduate, presented on *Dialogue Across Grounds*, now in its second year as a grassroots opportunity for face-to-face conversation among small groups of students, faculty, and staff. Hazel shared the origins and goals of *Dialogue Across Grounds* and GFC members asked questions and offered advice. The program is meant “to foster and support a caring University community and to engage issues of identity, community, and power dynamics on Grounds.” UVa Dining sponsors meals at small-group sessions, which meet for 90 minutes five times per semester. Groups are typically about 40% students and meet at a variety of times. All are encouraged to participate—whether in a single session or regularly—and to post and share flyers (provided to GFC over email) about the program.

See <https://pages.shanti.virginia.edu/dialogue/> for more information.

Regular Reports:

Benefits Committee (Joanne Lannigan)

The University Benefits Committee has held two meetings since our last GFC gathering. Joanne Lannigan reported on issues related to: health care (transitions involving ID cards and new efforts at improving the patient experience); education benefits (including scheduling challenges UVa employees face in pursuing degrees while working full time); and IM benefits (increasing intermural/recreation opportunities on Grounds and working with HoosWell). Lannigan agreed to make Benefits Committee minutes available to GFC members when they are ready ahead of future meetings.

One UVa (Barbara Kessler and Bethany Nowviskie)

The most recent One UVa was held during BOV meetings, and largely included updates from participating student groups (Honor, StudCo, etc.). Provost John Simon is scheduled to attend the next meeting of One UVa.

New Business:

Leadership Transitions (Bethany Nowviskie)

Bethany Nowviskie shared the news that GFC chair-elect Steve Warner has asked to step down from that position and from his roles as chair of the GFC communications committee and representative to the University's Diversity Committee. Warner will decide shortly whether changes in his work duties will require him to step down from GFC entirely. The group discussed whether GFC bylaws offer guidance on refilling the position of chair-elect and agreed upon a process. There was also discussion of the duties of the role (and shared sense that all GFC officer positions have increased in time commitment and commitment to broader University engagement in recent years). Greg Saathoff stepped forward as one nominee for the position of chair-elect, and Nowviskie offered to make a call for others over email, after which Patrick Walsh offered to facilitate an internal election. A call will also be made for a new chair of the GFC Communications Committee and a new representative to the Diversity Committee—interested parties to contact Nowviskie as soon as possible.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee (Colleen Smith)

The GFC discussed and edited language proposed by Colleen Smith for the Bylaws Committee, to clarify council members' eligibility to run for multiple additional terms, in the event that they first filled a partial term at a mid-term election. The measure was approved and a ratification vote will be taken at the upcoming general election.

Data Committee (Greg Saathoff)

Patrick Walsh shared preliminary work in analyzing new information for the Spring semester. Total numbers of non-tenure-track faculty and SPRS fell slightly. The only school or area that saw an increase in NTTF was the College of Arts & Sciences. Updated information will be posted to the GFC website. There was speculation in discussion that this increase is due to the hiring of part-time "wage faculty" or adjunct instructors, and the Data Committee was asked to explore the ratio of part-time to full-time NTTF across schools and divisions.

Policy Committee (Barbara Kessler)

Barbara Kessler reported that a draft of the proposed policy on "wage faculty" has been received by the schools and is expected to come to the Faculty Senate and GFC policy committees for feedback shortly. This is a revised draft from discussions last year, and all policy committee members and other interested GFC members are invited to comment.

The policy committee also recently provided feedback at Joanne Lannigan's request, to help inform her own commentary to a draft policy on School of Medicine faculty. This was sent to the SOM dean without response. Greg Saathoff and Dan Gioeli attended the meeting at which the policy was approved and reported that it was standing-room only and no discussion happened before the vote – but that a strategic planning process beginning in SOM will provide opportunities for further input. Bethany Nowviskie suggested that GFC invite any dean undertaking planning or revising policy related to non-tenure-track faculty and SPRS to meet with the Council.

Elections Committee (Jeff Sitler)

Jeff Sitler reported on nominations and self-nominations for the upcoming GFC elections. At this point, in at least two areas, candidates may be running unopposed. The GFC discussed ways to combat low voter turnout among our constituents. Voter turnout has been high in the libraries and traditionally low elsewhere.