

GENERAL FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

12:00 - 1:30pm

Alderman Library, Scholars' Lab

Present

Council Members: B. Nowviskie, S. Warner, S. Ware, B. Kessler, A. Ingram, M. Slon, D. Williams, D. Gioeli, J. Lannigan, J. Stertz, G. Saathoff, C. Holstege, K. Reid, P. Walsh, C. Smith, A. Rice, D. Karaoli,
General Faculty and Guests: D. Tammen, T. Pfeuffer, D. Ghamandi, E. Bradley, A. Caellegh

1. The meeting was called to order by Bethany Nowviskie. A quorum was established.
2. Minutes from the September 11, 2013 meeting were approved.

Business:

3. Faculty Senate Report (Chris Holstege)
 - a. Strategic Plan Update:
 - i. Faculty are actively engaged in the strategic planning process ongoing at the University. The newest draft of the Strategic Plan contains many changes suggested in the last round faculty review.
 - ii. The Board of Visitors will be asked to approve the Five Pillars in the plan; the details—implementation, finances, etc.—will be left to the Administration.
 - iii. The current draft of the Strategic Plan will be circulated by email to GFC members. Comments may be sent to George Cohen.
 - iv. General Faculty are invited (as always) to participate in the Faculty Senate meeting on October 22 at 5pm, in the Medical School Learning Studio. The meeting will focus on the Five Pillars of the Strategic Plan.
 - b. The Faculty Senate has also worked to revise the University's Mission Statement. It has been redrafted but must be approved by the Board of Visitors.
 - c. The Faculty Senate will begin producing a monthly newsletter to report on faculty governance issues.
4. Diversity Committee Report (Steve Warner)

- a. The committee had a guest presentation by Mauricio Velasquez of The Diversity Training Group, who may be a speaker worth approaching for upcoming GFC Communications Committee events.
5. One UVA Report (Bethany Nowviskie)
 - a. The One UVA group includes representatives from the Faculty Senate, the GFC, and other similar bodies representing faculty, staff, and students.
 - b. Employee benefits were a hot topic at the last meeting. Susan Carkeek attended the meeting to discuss upcoming changes to benefits.
 - c. A graduate student representative to One UVA raised the issue of non-traditional career mentoring and advising available for graduate students at UVA. General faculty may have an opportunity to mentor, because many graduate students will seek non-tenure-track positions in the future.
 - d. B. Nowviskie will bring back to OneUVA concerns expressed at the GFC meeting about how faculty are appointed to various administrative committees and task forces. Faculty chosen should have ties to faculty governing bodies, to ensure that they are true representatives. The GFC and Faculty Senate are often approached to recommend candidates, and the administration typically takes those recommendations as a matter of practice, but faculty governance representatives should have a formalized place on such committees. We should be looking at the “wiring” for information sharing, policy reviews, and recommendations to the administration, to promote strong faculty governance. The GFC recognizes that this issue is urgent, and that we currently have a receptive administration to partner with.
 6. Benefits Committee Report (Barbara Kessler)
 - a. Joanne Lannigan will be taking Barbara Kessler’s seat on this committee, and will be one of three general faculty members currently serving.
 7. Provost’s Task Force on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty (Greg Saathof, Bethany Nowviskie, Chris Holstege reporting)
 - a. The Task Force had its first meeting last week. The Provost issued the charge for the Task Force, which was not to produce a single report. Rather, the Task Force will be asked to look at a set of concerns, some of which may be addressed immediately while others may involve long term work. The Task Force will examine University-wide policies and school-specific policies applying to NTTF to make recommendations about which policies should happen at which level.
 - b. The Task Force has about 20 members, several of whom are serving ex-officio. Members include tenured and tenure-track faculty, as well as general faculty. No members were selected who served on the previous NTTF task force. B. Nowviskie, G. Saathoff, and C. Hoslstege are all members of the Task Force, and shared their impression that it is a solid group.

- c. Concern is expressed about whether the Task Force's charge will include Professional Research Staff and A&P Faculty. K. Reid volunteers to draft a letter to be sent to the Provost and Task Force chair from the GFC praising the creation of the Task Force, encouraging active engagement with the GFC, and urging inclusion of PRS and A&P Faculty in the Task Force's work.
 - d. The Task Force will address topics such as: expectation of continued employment or other measures for job security, clarity on performance reviews and job descriptions, transparency, and NTTF role in governance.
8. The Provost's Office is seeking to revise its website. The GFC has the opportunity to provide input. The Policy Library is a big part of the website; we can help ensure that policies relevant to General Faculty are easily accessible. We have on the GFC website an archive of current policies.

Committee Reports:

9. Elections

- a. A mid-year election will be held to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Butch Jefferson, representing Athletics. Two nominees have been identified.

10. Data Management

- a. New data showing the number of General Faculty, percentages by area, representation on GFC, etc. are now available on the GFC Collab site. Discussion of this data will be on the agenda for our next meeting.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: **November 13, 2013 - Alderman Library, Scholars' Lab**