General Faculty Council

Minutes: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

In attendance: Joe Fore, Julie May, Ed Murphy, Laura Serbulea, Jelena Samonina, Amanda Flora, Esperanza Gorriz, Diane Whaley, Sharon Kelley, Nathanial Ratliff, Bonnie Hagerman, Troy Dunaway, Zaida Villanueva, Tisha Hayes, Terri Yost

GFC Chair, Joe Fore called the meeting to order.

**1. Approve Minutes**

Minutes for the September 5 meeting approved.

**2. Regular Reports**

A. Chair’s Report

See below, Elections

B. Communications

The committee is working on updates to the website and would like GFC members to send pictures.

C. UVA Diversity Council

Nothing to report

D. Mentoring Network

The committee is working on a form to assist faculty in the promotion process.

**4. Officer and Committee Chair Elections**

**A. Officers**

1) *Chair-Elect*

Ed Murphy elected GFC Chair-elect

2) *Secretary*

Julie May elected GFC Secretary

3) *Treasurer*

Troy Dunaway elected GFC Treasurer

B. Committee Chairs

1) *Communications/Website*

Diane Whaley and Jelena Samonina elected co-Chairs

2) *Policy*

Ed Murphy elected Chair

3) *Elections*

Laura Serbulea and Ed Murphy elected co-Chairs

4) *Bylaws*

Sharon Kelley elected Chair

5) *Data Management*

Amanda Flora elected Chair

6) *University Diversity Council*

Derrick Watson elected Representative

**5. New Business**

A. Review of PROV-004

GFC Chair gave an update on the discussion about PROV-004. The Provost is still in the consultation phase with schools. They are not as far along as they had hoped but will make changes, circulate and then ask for suggestions.

Meeting with Policy Committee/Faculty Senate, which is very interested in revisions to PROV-004 and they do not believe GFC is being ignored…how can we be more effective? The next step is that GFC Chair will meet with Peter Norton and the UVA rep of the AAUP.

Discussion moved to the substantive differences in promotion, job protection, etc. The Provost is concerned this will become a de facto “up or out.” Some of our colleagues may not want a second review. What we have not is “out” or “in,” as people can be fired/not renewed at will. GFC wants to remain flexible.

Questions/comments from GFC committee members to consider moving forward:

 How does this relate to ECE? Do not know where the Provost is with this…

 What does it matter? Job protection is key because general faculty may get a salary increase.

 Sounds paternalistic because there are very few resources and various criteria across schools. Members of the Faculty Senate – believes GFC “should get tough” with the Provost. What is our leverage?

 GF Rep (School of Ed) looking at loads, etc., Perhaps if each school had one then they could gather in GFC.))

 Policy sets out the tone…

 Some non-academic arms of the University do not have faculty advocacy – administrators making decisions for general faculty.))

B. University’s COVID Policies

A faculty member expressed concern about COVID. Have others heard any concerns? What do our classrooms look like? One member indicated that instructors are more like police because they have to monitor students not complying. There are no cleaning supplies in some classrooms, which makes this more difficult. One member addressed the needs for in-person research in the spirit of teamwork but needlessly requires people to work in person who do not need to and for whom no exemption is offered.

Additional: one member raised the issue that the University is putting the brakes on hiring tenure-track in favor of more general faculty

C. Relations with Faculty Senate

See above.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm

Next meeting: November 3, 2021, Zoom Meeting