

General Faculty Council

Minutes: Wednesday, Oct 5, 2022

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Location: Newcomb Hall 481 and Zoom

Members Present: Troy Dunaway, Amanda Flora, Joe Fore, Esperanza Gorriz, Meredith Haden, Tisha Hayes, Christopher Mazurek, Ian Mullins, Barbara Reyna, Jelena Samonina, Bryn Seabrook, Mariana Teles, Judith Thomas, Joel Thurston, Derick Williams, Terri Yost

Members Not Present: Chris Gist, Christina Neuhaus, Robert Reiser, Ed Murphy, Shaeffer Somers

Non-members Present: Karen Dabney, Letia Ward, Mark Ward

GFC Chair, Joe Fore called the meeting to order.

1. Approve Minutes

Minutes for the September 7 meeting approved.

2. Announcements

None

3. Guest Presentation

Karen Dabney, Artistic Director & Program Manager, UVA Acts spoke to the group about UVA Acts as an education resource for faculty development. Their mission is to promote preventative practices that foster equitable, vibrant spaces for working and learning at the University of Virginia. This program uses theatrical performance with interactive education workshops as its teaching modality. Faculty who are interested in learning more can visit the UVA Acts website to view current offerings and register for sessions.

<https://provost.virginia.edu/subsite/uvaacts/opportunities/attend-performance>

Some sessions are in-person, and some are conducted virtually. In addition, schools and departments can reach out directly to book a performance as part of faculty development.

4. Regular Reports

A. Chair's Report

Nothing to report

B. Communications

Nothing to report

C. UVA Diversity Council

Nothing to report

D. Mentoring Network

The committee is currently working with Jenny White from the Office of the Provost in continuing this initiative which was started last year by Diane Whaley. A survey was distributed to assess for interest in a mentoring network. Approximately 60 individuals expressed interest. On November 10th 3:30-5pm there will be a meet and greet and brainstorming session in Halloway Hall. Notify Amanda Flora if you have an interest in participating. A question was raised about a similar conversation that Library representatives had with Jenny White in the past and was this a part of those discussions. Amanda indicated that the network would include different subgroups with different areas of interests such and library networking could certainly be included as a subgroup. Dialogue will continue about possible avenues to pursue. Committee meets at 10 am via zoom on first Wednesdays of the month (immediately before GFC meetings).

E. Chairs's council

Nothing to report

5. Officer elections

A Secretary and Data management Chair positions were currently vacant.

Actions:

Terri Yost self-nominated for the position of secretary. A verbal election was conducted with unanimous approval from all present committee members. None were opposed. Judy Thomas self-nominated for the position of Data Management Chair. A verbal election was conducted with unanimous approval from all present committee members. None were opposed.

6. Old Business

A. Equity in University awards/grants

In following up on the discussions of the last meeting, no additional concerns were raised today regarding inequity surrounding awards/grants for GF. The chair invited future input if new concerns were identified.

A concern was raised about summer chair positions (which are paid positions) being tied to tenure status. This practice currently prevents GF from holding these positions. It is unclear if this impacts all schools/departments but perhaps should be looked at more closely and brought to the Provost for discussion.

B. School-level General Faculty policies

Discussion encouraged GFC members to discuss this process within their schools to ensure that GF had input in the process and to assess how different schools conducted their policy updates. A concern was raised that the College of Arts and Sciences process was confusing and unclear. It had been discussed that GF would be included in the policy revision discussion, not unsure if this actually happened. Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Maite Brandt-Pierce has indicated that the Provost office will be making a request for schools to provide a transparent account of how

these policy revisions were conducted. Please discuss within your schools and bring concerns to the next GFC council meeting.

7. New Business

A. Publicity and Outreach Committee (previously the Communications Committee) Presentation (Jelena Samonina)

Mission of the P & O committee is to increase awareness of the GFC

Website: Currently under revision. New GFC members should please send a photo to Jelena to be uploaded to the website. A FAQ section is also being considered for addition (How do we differ from the Faculty Senate?).

Faculty Spotlight: Monthly spotlight on a member of the GF. Last month featured Diane Whaley. All GFC members should provide a brief snapshot/paragraph of who you are and what you do, hobbies, etc to be featured for faculty spotlight. Intent to promote visibility of membership.

Annual Luncheon: GF comprise 48% of the total faculty at UVA. Would like to start an annual luncheon (during GFC meeting time) to promote visibility throughout the university. GFC members should bring 2 GF colleagues (new hires). Planning for about 70 people. Budget for food if UVA catering is use would be \$16 per person for a total approximately \$1200. Anticipated venue would be Hallway Hall (School of Education). Reservations for spring semester are not open yet. Considering Feb 1. Other venues are also being explored at this time.

GFC Brochure:

A brochure has been created with the intend to distribute to all schools and departments with a budget of \$125 for 500 copies. A copy of the brochure was distributed to the committee members. Please send any feedback on the brochure to Jelena for consideration. Consider that the brochure could also be included in new hire information packets. Also consider providing a definition of what status of faculty are included under the term General Faculty.

Motion to Vote:

A motion was made by Ian Mullins to approve a budget of \$1200 for a GF Luncheon. Christopher Mazurek seconded the motion. A vote was conducted: Approved: All members, Opposed: None Abstained: None

A motion was made by Ian Mullins to conduct the luncheon during a GFC meeting date/time. Christopher Mazurek seconded the motion. A vote was conducted: Approved: All members, Opposed: None Abstained: None

A motion was made by Ian Mullins to approve a budget of \$125 for the printing of 500 brochures. Christopher Mazurek seconded the motion. A vote was conducted: Approved: All members, Opposed: None Abstained: None

A vote on the design of the brochure will be conducted at a future meeting after feedback has been incorporated.

Potential Topics for Future Discussion

A topic that had been under discussion in GFC council meetings during the 2021-22 academic year was brought back for renewed discussion. Regarding Faculty Senate and GFC, there had been consideration given to merging FS and GFC to prevent one group from potentially being pitted against the other by leadership. FC also does not have the unique perspective and needs of GF members since all faculty are represented there. Because the Past Chair and the current Chair are Ex Officio members of the FS, consideration could be given to giving them a voting voice and vice versa.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm

Next meeting: November 2, 2022 via Zoom (no in-person meeting option)