



UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE RECORD

The October meetings of the University Faculty will be held on Thursday, October 6 and Tuesday, October 18, 2005, beginning at 12:00 PM in the Langone Center Forum. Professor Martin Ligare will preside. If there are any amendments to the September 2005 minutes, please send them to Philippe Dubois, Secretary of the Faculty, in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA

- 1. Amendments to September 2005 minutes**
- 2. Announcements and remarks by the President**
- 3. Announcements and remarks by the Provost**
- 4. Announcements by the Chair of the Faculty**

Nominations for special election. Additional nominations from the floor are welcomed.

Faculty Hearing Committee (Engineering): Keith Buffinton

Faculty Council (untenured at-large): Molly McGuire

Committee on Complementary Activities (one year at-large): Elizabeth Capaldi

CAFT (one-year at-large): Nancy White

5. New Business

a. Report from Committee on Staff Planning: Tony Massoud

b. Report from the Committee on Instruction: Kevin Myers

Item 1: In response to a request from the Faculty Council, the Committee on Instruction explored the possibility of changing the schedule of established teaching times in a way that would create a new permanent time slot for faculty meetings. The outcome is that COI has decided not to recommend changing the teaching schedule at this time (at least until other methods for increasing participation in faculty meetings are attempted).

We considered several ways the schedule could be altered, and tried to identify the potential advantages and disadvantages of each. Robert Midkiff attended one of our meetings to advise us, because he has studied this issue thoroughly and was able to inform us of the potential ramifications of each change we were considering. We have come to the conclusion that the cons (which are certain) outweigh the pros (which are only speculative). Although we support the general principle that it's in the best interest of the University to encourage better attendance and participation in faculty meetings, we don't believe altering the teaching times is the most prudent way of accomplishing that right now. Our understanding is that the ad hoc committee on faculty governance did identify the meeting time and child care problems as one reason some faculty didn't attend, but that is only true for a relatively small number of faculty, and that it's not the primary reason for lack of attendance. Changing the teaching schedule would be a rather drastic move that would affect the daily lives of all faculty, with potential adverse consequences for instruction, and with disproportionate effects on a few academic programs, with only a hypothesis that it might make some faculty more likely to attend faculty meetings. But we also sympathize that the new strategy of semi-monthly meetings is rather awkward for the Chair and has its own drawbacks. All other things equal, we think that a return to the Monday 5:00-6:30 meeting would still be less problematic than changing the teaching schedule. We are hopeful that other strategies for improving faculty participation can have better effects. After other options are exhausted we would be willing to revisit the teaching times schedule if necessary.

Item 2: COI is continuing its discussion of the dissemination of grading statistics. We intend to bring a detailed motion to the faculty at a future meeting.

c. Report from Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee: Amy McCready

d. Report from the Committee on Planning and Budget: Ben Marsh

6. Announcements and remarks by members of the President's staff