

UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2011

Attendees: P. Abraham, L. Bickmore, J. Collins, S. D'Alessandro, M. Knee, S. Kudzin, D. LaComb, C. Merbler, A. Olin, R. See, M. Seidel, B. Shadrick, I. Steen, R. Vives, L. Wittner, J. Uppal, P. Romain, Colin Quin, J. Gendron, G. Petry, T. Hoey, M. Grosshandler, J. Hanifan, K. Thompson-LaPerle.

The meeting convened at 12:25pm.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2010 Executive Committee meeting.

Moved by See. Seconded by Steen. Amended. Vote carries.

Motion to approve the Dec. 8, 2010 Executive Committee minutes.

Moved by See. Seconded by Romain. Amended to change spelling of Romaine to Romain on p. 2. Vote carries.

Reports

Chapter President Candace Merbler: "It's going to be quite busy this semester."

Merbler reports Advocacy Training is from noon to 2 p.m. on Feb. 3. Purpose is to get members comfortable with coming back to attend the sessions with legislators this spring. Thanks to Kelly Thompson-LaPerle for working extra last night to prepare signup for advocacy training.

Merbler sent a blast e-mail to faculty and staff telling them that attending the planned Save Our SUNY (SOS) classroom walkout and teach-in would be violating the Taylor Law. Public employees cannot strike, and for a faculty member, walking out of class could be considered striking.

Discussion ensued. Collins objected to the way this was handled, as it seemed to be pointing fingers at faculty who have been working with student groups like SOS.

Merbler said the bottom line was that her responsibility is to protect UUP members, and she was advised by Martin Coffey and the NYSUT Labor Relations Specialists that UUP faculty and staff could not participate in a walkout.

Hoey said many were involved at the meeting where the letter from organizers was developed. "We were doing what we thought was the right thing to do." It was a draft. Hoey was not at that meeting, but he feels it could have been dealt with in a different way.

See: Can we find a better way for this body to work with the other body? How can we do it?
Merbler responded: We need someone involved with the group to talk to UUP before they issue letters.

Uppal moved to defer this conversation to the end of the meeting.

Collins seconded. Passes unanimously.

VP for Academics: Steen: Urge people to come out for advocacy. "Our only salvation this year is going to be through advocacy." I was there at the Legislature all day yesterday and there were very few of our members there. It's really important as we move on to have people meet with legislators. To be as well informed as possible.

Vice President for Professionals: Abraham: reports that he has been dealing with delayed permanent appointments, appeals and promotions. Very busy.

Treasurer: Olin: Report is in the packet on present finances. 2011-2012 chapter budget is due March 25th. The agency fee percentage was raised from 2 to 5 percent.

The chapter wishes Olin best wishes for a happy, healthy baby. Her due date is imminent.

Part-time Concerns Rep: Hanifan – the guidelines for part-time faculty are the center of our activism.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. To fund upcoming advocacy training luncheon. Moved by Quin, seconded by Romain. Vote carried..
2. Funding for part-time training guidelines workshop. This will be for light refreshments only. Moved by Hanifan, seconded by Collins. Vote carried.
3. See suggested holding a Candidates' Forum for the upcoming chapter elections. Collins agreed. Uppal: This will cost money. We already run candidates statements in the newsletter and print it – very costly. Not practical. People don't come. Romain: I support J. Uppal's comment. Wittner: One major thing we offer members is the right to choose their members. If they don't come, OK. Some will show up. We are a democratic union. See: Newsletter gives candidate a chance to write something but it's short. In person, can answer questions, etc. Merbler: Is there an additional cost to the chapter. We already have the cost of the election newsletter. Has to be printed and distributed. Bickmore: I'm in favor of a candidates' forum. Hoey: We could state in

the newsletter there will be a candidates' forum on such and such date. Merbler: The issues are finding space at this late date, and the number of people running at the same time. Large number of candidates. Finding best time. Not everyone can come. Don't want anyone to be disenfranchised by time constraints. Hoey: Other schools do a forum. We've had uncontested elections for years. Only contested when I ran against you and Philippe. Colin: We could have statements in the newsletter with a note: If you want to engage in more conversation on this issue, here is my email address. Collins: Call me a Luddite but ...writing is one thing and human interaction is another. Hanifan: I'm in support of a face-to-face forum. D'Alessandro: I'm in favor. Don't anticipate no one will come. Hoey: At the General Membership Meeting, you ask the delegates to stand up but they are not introduced. Only certain people introduced. Resolution: to have a candidates' forum before the chapter elections. Moved by See, seconded by D'Alessandro. Yea – 10; Nay - 9; one abstention.

There was a motion to adjourn by acclamation. The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Petry, Acting Secretary