

Albany Chapter UUP  
Executive Committee  
October 23, 2017

Attendees: B. Benjamin, E. Briere, B. Brooking, J. Creamer, M. Dzikowski, T. Evans, R. Friedman, M. Grosshandler, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, D. LaFond, Z. Lawrence, A. Lotmore, A. Lyons, A. Major, M. Manjak, D. Myers, P. Ng, A. Olin, G. Petry, L. Pyles, B. Pyszczymuka, A. Richie, M. Seidel, P. Stasi, R. Tolley, M. Varisco, R. Vives, C. Walcek, K. Thompson-LaPerle

Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from September meeting.

-Acceptance of minutes was moved and seconded. The motion passed with 4 abstentions and no nays.

2. Discussion of October Labor-Management meeting (agenda attached).

-There are no minutes yet as the meeting was held last Thursday. Bill Hedberg was not there so academic issues were not fully discussed though we will follow up with him. There was some question about full participation of Information Science in Engineering and Applied Sciences. What does that look like in the transition? Bill Hedberg and Jim Stellar are in touch with the deans of the respective colleges; we will follow up. Regarding professional promotions form, we gave them a sample form to standardize this and they are working on it and will show it to us soon. Bret asked that re: contingent issues, we should ask for the data on the dashboard because they filled in the enrollment gap with contingent so it should be starker; likewise, re: the retention data from the September meeting, it should be specific as to who, where etc.

3. Discussion of President's Report (attached)

-Discussed contract updates and noted that while we could sign a contract today, it wouldn't satisfactorily address issues such as health care cost raises, discretionary money, and family leave. There is a strong possibility that we will have an informational picket on campus with the purpose of sending a message to our Administration that we are united for a fair contract.

-Discussed the Constitutional Convention and the problems that UUP/NYSUT sees with it. While it is billed as something that will break down traditional and inaccessible political cleavages and structures, in practice, that is not how it has really worked. The last time NY had a convention, the delegates were people who were already connected into the system including elected politicians and attorneys. There was a motion and second to authorize money to pay \$50 to procure some more ConCon signs for members. There were no oppositions or abstentions and it passed unanimously

-There was a discussion about the fact that the University at Albany Foundation bought the Interfaith Center and are likely relocating those activities to the Campus Center. There is

some evidence that the university is wanting to buy other properties surrounding the uptown campus.

-Aaron summarized the meeting that the officers had with President Rodriguez. The President's key issues included the identity of the university/branding; research productivity; and rebuilding graduate education. We asked him to join us in advocating for funding from the state. We also discussed our perceptions of the current context including the fact that we are coming out of deactivations and furloughs; lack of raises; pressures of workload increasing; and losses to our core mission. We noted that there have been no raises for PhD graduate students and that faculty need to find their own grants to fund them. We noted that there are some new appointment letters that state that the normal load is a 3-3 load, which doesn't send the message that this is a ROI. We also received the message that if you want to fund things, bring in grants and "don't ask us for money." We also brought up the issue of continuing to expand faculty diversity. Rodriguez also noted that he has an open-door policy. In general, the meeting was a give and take and he did more listening than recent past presidents. We will invite him to a Spring EC meeting (e.g. February meeting).

-Discussed the upcoming Fall Faculty meeting.

-Discussed the food pantry and the need to get the word out to students. Greta will send out flyers so that we can post and/or share them with students. Next year, UUP will partner with Sodexo for a walk/run to benefit the pantry. It was noted that Sodexo is now unionized

#### 4. Announcements / reports from officers and committees.

-The newsletter deadline is Nov. 1

-Campus Equity Week event – contingent faculty exhibition, reading, and performance will be held Oct. 31 from 12p -7p with 4pm readings and reception in Fine Arts 223. Everyone is encouraged to post flyers and attend. Our chapter received \$2000 of CAP funding for this.

Treasurer's report – See attached. We have a bill from Whalen Tent but we will be receiving money soon so will pay it soon. Some thought it better to pay it now. The group moved and seconded to transfer \$1500 from savings to checking. The motion passed unanimously.

Professional Concerns– Tom discussed forms for evaluation review (828 raise committee). Professionals can ask their supervisor for a raise and they have 45 days to respond. There is a committee who can review an appeal as well.

#### 5. Report from the Delegate Assembly in Buffalo

-Discussed the DA convention that was held in Buffalo and noted some accessibility issues. Rebekah got an award at the DA; UAlbany was well represented in awards ceremony.

## 6. Report from Officer meeting with President Rodriguez

-See above

## 7. Outreach and Advocacy

-There are new statewide initiatives around outreach and legislative action. The goal is to bring together a group of people to continue this work. In addition to the lobbying and fundraising events, we need someone to take on the role of political coordinator, who would motivate people to get to events.

## 8. Chapter Membership

-Update on figures and strategies for signing new members and keeping existing members. Aaron will send out some information including the impact of membership work we have done for the last 2 years or so, including FT and PT, and fee payers/members. We continue to want to emphasize the need to have conversations and get people to sign up for membership.

## 9. Funding requests (Women's Concerns, Bret Benjamin, Loretta Pyles)

-Women's Concerns – Workshop on Family Leave in the Fall (Wed. Nov. 15) – Assembly Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor from 3-5pm. Jamie Dangler from Statewide is going to come and panelists will talk about their own experiences. We need to procure coffee and snacks (for around \$250). The request was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

-Bret Benjamin- 49<sup>th</sup> annual Institute for Culture and Society is a week-long event including scholars from around the world that will be on our campus in June 2018. It is facilitated by the Marxist Literary Group, founded by Frederick Jamison and created to think through questions and problem of politics. There will be reading groups, panels, lectures, round tables. He requested \$200 from UUP (co-sponsor) to support a coffee break. The request was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

-Loretta Pyles and other members are organizing a downtown members luncheon. The request is for money to pay for lunch for downtown members. The request was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

-Deborah LaFond made a motion that funding requests be no lower than 4<sup>th</sup> on the agenda in consideration of people who have to leave early. It was noted that in the past the President can use discretion to attend to this and that usually a motion to move it up at the beginning of the meeting is sufficient. There was a question as to whether professionals have to take vacation time to come to the meetings. The question was called and approved. The motion was rejected with 1 person voting in favor and the rest against.