

UUP Albany Chapter

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes December 5, 2012

Attendees: L. Bickmore, J. Collins, L. Gallagher, J. Gendron, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, F. Jaquez, M. Knee, S. Kudzin, D. LaFond, D. Lewis, A. Olin, G. Petry, B. Pyszczymuka, P. Romain, R. See, M. Seidel, I. Steen, E. Warnke, K. Thompson-LaPerle

Meeting commenced at 12:15pm

I. Minutes:

Waive approval of minutes from the October 19, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Waive approval of minutes from the October 24, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Approve minutes from the November 14, 2012. Motion carried.

II. Reports

A. Officers

1. **President** (sent by e-mail in advance of meeting.): J. Collins stated that we had a well attended and participatory general membership meeting. Six statewide officers were in attendance and were impressed with the involvement, committee reports, grassroots guidance in the chapter. J. Collins stated – “This is what you are doing!”

On December 3, the Membership Committee and Acting President Jim Collins presided over a meeting with Dept. Representatives. Also invited were Executive Committee members. Joining the meeting was Statewide Membership Development Officer, Edison Bond, Jr. Our Chapter was asked by E. Bond to help bring out members (at least 50) for a rally in Albany on January 8th to support the Downstate Medical Center. More information will be sent out by EC member.

J. Collins sent a letter regarding agency fees to UUP Statewide Officer, R. Blackman-Stroud who is trying to identify funds for “other than agency fee” projects. A. Olin is on the Statewide Finance Committee and may have more to share.

J. Collins sent a letter to the new U. Albany President, Dr. Robert Jones on the advice of officers, inviting him to meet with the EC.

J. Collins reported that discussion on contingent issues related to the new writing center have progressed in Labor Management meetings. “Why can’t new lecturers be instructors with continuing appointment?” This is the question on the table. Collins reported that we are making headway despite management’s surprise at our bringing this up and sharing examples such

Brockport, Purchase, and the other University Centers, all of whom have Instructors. We'll continue to press.

A member asked if other Instructors could be considered for continuing appointment.

J. Collins is in conversation with Statewide regarding resources beyond agency fee funding.

Jim thanked all those who made reports both at the General Membership and Executive Committee meetings.

2. Vice President for Academics - VP report sent in advance of the meeting – B. Benjamin not present. No comments made on advance report. J. Collins stated that VP Benjamin will be working on “workload creep” vis a vis online learning/teaching and issues such as reported decline in support for research. Benjamin will organize a workshop on academic workload.

J. Collins stated that it would be good to know where it was announced that UUP work counts as university service. Members commented that it would be good to have a refresher statement on this.

The necessity of UUP Bulletin Boards was raised to advertise and promote the union. The UUP Labor Relations Specialist (LRS) stated that the contract states that one UUP bulletin board per department is allowed and that the UUP President must approve what goes up. Some members stated that bulletin boards are often covered with flyers on car sales, notices regarding cake selling and decoration, leaving little room for UUP information. A dedicated bulletin board would resolve this.

3. Vice President for Professionals – T. Hoey reported on a successful Performance Program Workshop for supervisors.

4. Secretary - No report. Secretary thanked Janna Harton and Erik Warnke for taking minutes for two sets of minutes, once while she was in the hospital (11/14) and once during General membership due to pre-scheduled conference leave.

5. Treasurer – A. Olin shared e-mail handouts and reports. Treasurer addressed final figures and guidelines. No questions.

6. Contingent Faculty - J. Hanifan reported on what she described as a “culminating meeting.” Spoke to an amendment going up to Delegate Assembly which requires 2/3 majority. To vote, delegates must attend plenary session. Jim and Jill will have the first meeting with the new Contingent Committee. Hanifan shared info on the Senate meeting addressing the new writing program, reporting that the Provost stated that UA administration lack experience in moving from Lecturer to Instructor positions, which allow Continuing Appointment, but that it is worthy of more exploration. Hanifan said that we must continue to press in order to transform Lecturer positions to Instructor positions. The current plan for the Writing Center has slated 15 lecturers and one tenure track Director position.

The UUP LRS stated that nothing prevents management from changing a position into a tenure line. People can ask for early consideration if there is a period not on a tenure track line. One member asked if other departments would be grandfathered in if that were the case.

B. Standing Committees

Solidarity Committee – Chair absent. J. Collins reported and will send out a message regarding a national petition calling for the end of funding for wars over support of jobs. Collins reported that several other unions are supporting the message to focus on domestic priorities, the “fiscal cliff,” Sandy Relief, and social justice priorities. Collins will send more info on this to all UUP members.

Affirmative Action Committee - Chair proposed that we need a Women’s Concerns Committee and recommended D. LaFond to chair. Another member of the committee suggested that the AA committee not separate Women’s Concerns out of AA.

AA Chair stated that the AA committee is looking into developing a speaker’s series. A personal request for a U Albany Professor to kick off a potential series was made. \$500.00 toward an honorarium was requested. Another member of the AA committee suggested that this get tabled until the AA committee meets to discuss. One other EC member agreed. Another EC member suggested that in a case like this, the Office of Diversity ought to be approached for funding, perhaps other departmental co-sponsors before considering funding. A discussion on agency fee ensued – honorariums are part of agency fee as reminded by Treasurer. According to the Treasurer, a total of \$1400 is allowable, we’ve spent \$200.00. T. Hoey, as Chair of the Statewide Agency Fee Committee, stated that \$1000.00 is the limit. J. Collins suggested that we wait until Jan. 30th when Statewide considerations for other funds are shared. J. Collins asked to be notified of next AA meeting and plans to attend.

Action: Motion to consider the approval of funding for AA event series after further clarification of speaker’s series. Motion carried.

Parking Committee - E. Warnke has located the legal basis for payroll garnishment in the case of parking fines. It comes from New York Education Law section 360 and the SUNY board of Trustees NYCRR part 561. He can provide copies to anyone who wishes. It may only be taken after a hearing or opportunity for hearing. Currently the policy as laid out on NYCRR 561 is out of date and needs to be brought up to date and smaller items like garnishment before appeals needs to be corrected. The committee plans to work with parking management and administration to bring these up-to-date.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

III. Old Business

Supporting Member-Driven Events: No discussion or action at this time

IV. New Business

1. **New Version of Constitutional Amendments Regarding Contingents** – J. Hanifan shared proposed constitutional amendment for the Spring Delegate Assembly in Albany and answered questions. The amendment calls for a fourth delegate that would be the Officer for Contingents. Excerpted from handout - “The Officer Contingents shall be an additional delegate regardless of category. The Officer for Contingents shall not affect the Delegate allocation for the chapter as specified in ARTICLE VIII. Section 2. c.”

2. **Nominations of Co-Chair(s) and Members to Contingent Concerns Committee** - J. Collins stated that working with Jill Hanifan he had re-constituted the Contingent Committee. Co-chairs and committee members needed approving. **Action:** J. Collins and Jill Hanifan (co-chairs), Josefa Dorronsoro Estebanez, Kir Kuiken, John Justeson, and Steve Pampinella, members. Motion to approve new members was seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Chapter Website: Move to New Server?**

UUP Chapter Web Manager reported that E. Landy from Statewide told him he must move the site from the campus website server. Upon checking with other universities or Web Manager found that we are among 6 that have the website on the campus server. One member asked, “Why suddenly?” J. Collins stated that this is a recommendation but is not mandatory. E. Landy may be encouraging this move for a number of reasons. Advantages: One member thought this would insure that administrators could not seek information on UUP, another member thought this would not prevent this. Would Statewide offer the space? Yes, UUP has a standing offer. One member thought that it would not be a good idea unless the University did not agree to create a re-direct action to the new site. M. Seidel suggested we ask this privately, not at LM. Disadvantages: Another member suggested that if the site is moved, when people search within the University site, UUP actions, information, events, chapter information will not likely be included in the search results. This takes away the presence of the UUP and its work within the context of the university. Another member agreed that was an important consideration. **Action:** Web Manager to seek more information and share with EC.

4. **Holiday Gala** - An EC member proposed that the UUP Exec donate two \$25.00 gift cards from the Good and Welfare fund. Approved unanimously. One member offered a donation of 2 gift cards from the Honest Weight Food Coop as these were appreciated last year. Amount in Good and Welfare is between \$500-\$600.00, as reported by K. LaPerle.

5. **Request for UUP Chapter Megaphone** – Proposal that if we purchased our own, we could save UUP money if having events or if need more than one microphone at a meeting. One member offered to donate personal model that uses batteries. Requestor stated that we may want to research newer technology and re-visit. **Action:** Move to approve purchase of megaphone

purchased at BJ's with recharge pack if there is a liberal return policy to determine if meets our needs. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:50pm

Amended by Secretary and sent to Web Manager January 30, 2013

Approved as amended January 30th, 2013.

Sent by President to the Executive Committee for approval on January 30, 2013

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Deborah LaFond to Chapter President on January 27th, 2013