

UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2011

Attendees: P. Abraham, B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, J. Collins, S. D'Alessandro, J. Gendron, C. Jewell, S. Knapp, M. Knee, S. Kudzin, G. Landsman, C. Merbler, G. Petry, C. Quinn, P. Romain, R. See, B. Shadrick, I. Steen, J. Uppal, L. Wittner, T. Hoey, K. Thompson-LaPerle

The meeting commenced at 12:23 p.m.

Approval of minutes from 1/26/2011 Executive Committee meeting:
Wittner moved, See seconded. Wittner asked that on page 2, a change be made from “Right to choose *members* to *leaders*.” The vote carried, with one abstention.

Guests were introduced. Merbler explained the significance of the Good & Welfare envelope.

I. Reports

A. Officers

1. President-Merbler went over her report:
 1. The email I sent covered the gist of the Chancellor's letter. President Smith approved of this email. Merbler reported lively discussion at Senate Monday about BAG IV. Merbler was there and asked for transparency. The cut is still \$10 million for this campus. We've found \$5.5 million in savings; Administration is “cashing through.” \$4.5 million remains to be “found.” Petry asked for info from BAG IV; Merbler said to ask J. Fossett, Chair of BAG IV, or to FOIL the request. Collins thanked Merbler for requesting transparency. Collins asked for clarification about the Chancellor's letter; Merbler gave information and read from that letter. Uppal reported on a conversation he had with Zimpher about the Reserve Fund; Zimpher said it's a misconception that the fund exists. Discussion ensued.
 2. UUP Awards: Nominations are due 4/15/11. Brief discussion.
 3. Thank you for attending the Winter DA. Due to my illness, I missed you on Saturday; I'm sorry.
 4. Factual summary of dates, due dates, etc. Discussion of print vs. online ballots. Ballots have been published online with Landy's approval. Collins: For candidates who can't attend the Candidates' Forum, can they send a printed statement to be read? Steen: What about their statement in the Newsletter? Collins: It's a different audience. Steen: No, it isn't. Discussion. Merbler contends that people cannot read statements of people who don't attend the Candidate's Forum. More discussion. Landsmann said, how about videotaping? D'Alessandro and Jewell said announce who is absent and tell people to read the Newsletter. Hoey asked about teleconferencing. Merbler said that we agreed, at the last meeting, to save

the Chapter money. More discussion. Petry urged practicality and reminded us we only have 90 minutes for the Candidate's Forum. More discussion. D'Alessandro said people in print or on video cannot answer questions. Kudzin asked how we will measure the success of the Candidate's Forum. Merbler: We can count attendees. See said one person showing up makes it a success. Landsman said the mere counting of numbers at this *first* time is not a proper assessment, rather, we should ask how we can improve it. See asked how the time would be divvied up. Merbler: Depending on the number of participating candidates, the Forum Coordinator will do something similar to what UUP Central does, i.e., so many minutes per person. Maybe 1 minute more for Officers than Delegates. The Coordinator is Kate Latal. Kate will have a stopwatch, as will someone else. People will be cut off if they talk too much. Hoey: No matter what, we all need to work together. Applause.

5. RE: the AAUP investigation: UUP is NOT involved with this investigation. This campus has no legal binding to participate with AAUP on this matter. Discussion. Some members like the idea of AAUP as our allies. Steen said AAUP may or may not help us. Still more discussion. Merbler will keep us apprised of the situation and will send blast emails as warranted.

6. Merbler reiterated Phil's request re: the action alert from AFT.

Add-ons

1. Alison to send more photos of Benjamin; she's proud and having fun!

2. VP for Academics: Steen: The most important thing we can do is go to the Legislature! Go early: there are fewer security guards and fewer entrances, so there will be lines! The Governor does NOT want to extend the Millionaire's tax, but Canestrari urges us to "keep up the pressure." Steen also talked about rational tuition. He also said legislators said part of the problem is our Chancellor. Also, there was some talk of raising tuition for out-of-state students. Discussion. Benjamin asked what it would take for the SUNY community, or at least our campus, to have a vote of no confidence in this Chancellor? Steen says budget fight should come first. Abraham said 20/20 is back in 2 forms. Chancellor seems a bit more flexible, but 20/20 **is** back. Collins: This Chancellor is an enemy of education and this University. I support a vote a no confidence. Merbler: budget fight first, but then you may go through the Faculty Senate. Steen is also working on privatization issue. VPs work with individuals, but I cannot share these private matters with you. I intercede for members who are being mistreated, but for whom grievances cannot be filed. This work has increased the numbers of our members.

3. VP for Professionals: Abraham: lots of phone calls re: Performance Programs and Romain and I will be lobbying this weekend at the Black & Latino Conference. Merbler: Hayward Horton will also be in attendance (although he is not currently a delegate).

- 4. Secretary:** Jewell: The minutes are up to date. Thank you, Greta.
- 5. Treasurer:** On medical leave, no report.
- 6. Part-time Concerns Rep:** Hanifan: Absent.

B. **Standing Committees:** None

C. **Ad Hoc Committees:** None

II. **Old Business:** None.

III. **New Business:**

1. Merbler: re: Candidates Forum: there was no monetary amount requested to be spent on this, no refreshments. However, be under advisement: Chapter President can authorize up to \$100 without prior approval. We will need a microphone. Kelly said room fee is \$30. Collins: move to fund what is required. Wittner: Seconded. Vote carries.
2. Steen: 3/25/11 is the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Fire; ceremony at the NYS Museum and symposium, fall 2011. More details to come.

There was a motion to adjourn by Uppal and the meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H. Jewell,
Secretary