

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
April 9, 2013

Attendees: B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, E. Briere, J. Collins, C. Fox, J. Gendron, M. Grosshander, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, D. LaComb, M. Manjak, G. Petry, B. Pyszczymuka, R. See, M. Seidel, I. Steen, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, B. Weaver, L. Wittner, K. Thompson-LaPerle

I. MINUTES

The Executive Committee waived approval of meeting minutes from 03/13/13.

Order of business: Tom Hoey moved for New Business to be moved to start of meeting. Larry Wittner 2nd. The motion was approved. (New Business appears under IV below)

II. REPORTS

A. Officers

1. President

See submitted President's Report. In addition, Jim Collins emphasized:

- Point #3 Contingent Concerns. Jil Hanifan has offered to stay on committee to help with transition to Roberto Vives.
- Point #4 Health and Safety. New tunnel safety concerns were discussed for a 'multi-use' area with pedestrians and work vehicles. Barry Trachtenberg's request for bicycle lanes in the tunnels was ignored.
- Point #5 Labor-Management. We expect a 50% increase in full-time lecturers with the new Writing Program. Administration's plan for a 4-4 teaching load is opposed by UUP and will hopefully be pushed back to a 3-3 load, perhaps with some administrative responsibilities. This is an example of how UUP pressure can effect positive change. We must continue to be more assertive with Administrative overreach and make sure that union-friendly members (such as Lee Bickmore) serve on governance committees.

2. Vice President for Academics

- Writing Program continues to be a big concern. Hoping to get concrete data on full-time contingent teaching loads. UUP Academic Concerns committee has sent out its own survey as well.
- Working with Chapter officers present and future to ease transition for new leadership.
- Coordinating meeting of campus union leadership.
- Attended UUP leadership training on May 5-7. Of special note:

Shared services IT/Online teaching. In the discussion that followed, Marty reported that at the May Delegate Assembly, there will be a panel demonstration on the Chancellor's proposal for online education. Marty and Lee will present. A member asked 'who owns the content of online courses.' Our LRS replied that if the course is part of the instructor's normal course load, faculty members own their content. However, if it is an

overload, for which the member has been paid (perhaps with a ‘new computer’), then it is arguably the property of the university.

Program deactivations at UAlbany and Geneseo. Bret and Jim spoke about the discussion that emerged at the Presidents & Vice Presidents’ Meeting on this issue and the larger question of how to improve Statewide UUP and chapter-to-chapter responses to job losses throughout the SUNY system.

3. **Vice President for Professionals** See submitted Vice President's Report. In addition:

- Point #2. Resolution to oppose privatization of Albany County public facility and services. Moved by Tom, 2nd by Ben Weaver. Passed unanimously.
- May 13th is date of Albany County legislature vote. Please contact your legislators and encourage them to oppose privatization. 5% of workforce will lose their jobs. All unionized employees will have to reapply.
- Point #3 Issue is that 7 professionals risked losing their tenure and benefits as administration wanted to remove their full time status. Chapter was able to argue for qualified rank as a better alternative.
- VP attended lecture by a former UAlbany student “JR”, at which President Jones demonstrated support for a physical university in response to a question posed by Tom about concerns over online education taking over physical universities.
- Suggested that one of the tasks for next year should be to get the committees of the various campus unions to begin working together on common issues, such as Health and Safety.

3. **Secretary**

See submitted report.

4. **Treasurer**

See submitted report

5. **Contingent Faculty Representative**

No report. As Contingent Concerns Committee Co-chair, Jim Collins reported on behalf of himself and Jil Hanifan that the committee’s April 4th meeting for contingents, the first in many years, was a resounding success. There were 18 attendees from over 9 different work units, they greatly appreciated the meeting good morale and several committed to work with the committee on an educational/mobilizing campaign in Fall 2013, with efforts focused on *Campus Equity Week*, a national campaign to educate about academic adjunct workers in late October.

B. Standing Committees

1. Committee updates were provided in the pre-meeting email.

2. **Health and Safety:**

- Janna thanked Chapter for supporting her participation at a NYSUT Health/Safety Committee meeting.
- Informed Chapter of an effort underway to organize Health and Safety concerns for workers in the Capital Region, including those unorganized workers with fewer protections.
- More on Tunnels. A poster campaign is underway to promote safety.
- Air quality remains an issue on campus.
- Dutch parking lot safety is a concern, because people have been seen taking a left out of the lot, going the wrong way

3. Disability Concerns

- A member of the committee reported that the university's Reasonable Accommodation Policy was still not available on the UA website.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Chapter release time for the new president needs to be decided soon after the terms for new officers begin. Therefore, an Executive Board meeting will be held on June 4th. Time and location TBA.
- Motion to increase summer hours for Chapter Assistant from 20 to 30 in order to help clean and organize office/scan documents. Motion seconded, discussed, and approved. UUP will be contacted to see if they will contribute to this expense. Ivan Steen noted that UAlbany Special Collections is the repository for Chapter archives.
- Decision was reached to create an Ad-hoc Events Committee, to be led by Tom Hoey for the remainder of this term. Whether to continue this committee will be determined by the new EC after June 1. This committee will assist with tasks tied to UUP Chapter events as a means of sharing responsibility.
- A one-time chapter officers' transition meeting was discussed, beyond of minimal funding needs, it was not referred to the EC for funding approval.
- Thanks to Greta Petry for a very successful Willie Baptist talk.
- A resolution for the chapter to endorse the *Sweatfree NY Campaign* was proposed, seconded, discussed and passed unanimously. Jim Collins will notify the Labor-Religion Coalition coordinator of the chapter's support. In response to questions regarding the resolution, Larry Wittner explained that the crux of the issue was that Governor Cuomo is being asked to stop state contractors from using sweatshop-produced textiles from being purchased by the state. Further discussion revealed that UAlbany has agreed *not* to sell clothes made in sweatshops.

Meeting adjourned 1:45pm.

Minutes submitted by B Trachtenberg on 4/9/13.