

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
September 18, 2014**

Attendees: M. Bartoszek, B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, P. Breiner, E. Briere, J. Collins, L. Gallgaher, J. Gendron, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, J. Jurkoski, G. Landsman, M. Manjak, R. See, M. Seidel, P. Stasi, I. Steen, B. Sutton, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, L. Wilder, and K. Latal

All were welcomed back, with a special welcome to new members. Everyone introduced themselves. A short summary of EC member duties was provided. EC members are elected biannually and also serve as delegates to the statewide union. The EC charts the chapter's path, sets policy, decides where to put resources, shares information, engages in ongoing discussion regarding priorities, and its committees engage in chapter work.

I. Minutes

Minutes from the 8/21/14 meeting were moved by M. Bartoszek, seconded by R. See and approved with 6 abstentions.

II. New Business and Committee Chair Reports

- a. **Chapter Election Guidelines:** B. Benjamin thanked the Elections Committee for their work on clarifying the nominations process, making it transparent to all and providing a document with deadlines on a schedule. Discussion included:
- the value of sharing this information with all the deadlines in the newsletter, website, in meetings and in a blast email
 - information must be circulated before ballots arrive in mailboxes
 - the spring general membership meeting should be early enough to serve as a candidates forum, have a 1-hour format so those with only an hour hear from all candidates, provide a format with member participation (Q&A), split sessions so professionals and academics hear only from those delegates they can vote for
 - if there are budget needs the EC must have time to vote to approve the budget
 - clarifying that nominee statements are not nominations and reducing confusion by having a single deadline for both candidate statements and nominations

A motion was made by T. Hoey, seconded by J. Collins to approve the guidelines as submitted by the Elections Committee with the provision that they would be responsive to ongoing concerns and set all deadlines. All approved.

The Elections Committee will be responsible for keeping an eye on the process. K. Latal agreed to chair the committee. Others from the EC are needed on the committee (not current officers or those planning to run). The Elections Committee can consider the best format for the spring forum, field questions from those interested in running, ensure newsletter articles and blast emails are sent, keep the chapter to the deadlines.

- b. **Delegate Assembly Sign-up:** The DA will be 10/17-10/18 in Albany. 13 academic and 13 professional delegates will be sent and the chapter can also send observers.
- c. **Women's Concerns Drescher Event:** The Women's Concerns Committee is planning a November event with Nuala Drescher to share perspectives on women being successful in the university system and the impact of the Drescher leave initiative.

Discussion included: eligibility is limited (applies to less than half of the chapter and adjuncts can't take leave without losing seniority), males have no similar leave, getting the award early enough to permit enhancement of the CV is essential, the non-transparency of the award criteria, concerns with tenure on campus especially for female minorities (a separate panel was suggested for this last item). There was strong support voiced as well for the positive role played by the Drescher Award on campus, and its tremendous value for women and faculty of color who are in tenure-track appointments.

- d. An **Academic Concerns Workload Creep Workshop** targeted to academics (both tenure track and contingent) will be hosted 10/22/14 at noon in CC375 by the Academic Concerns Committee. The forum will feature M Seidel and Jaime Dangler (statewide UUP VP for Academics) on a panel of campus faculty addressing the issue. **A motion was made by J. Hanifan and seconded by J. Jurkowski to fund lunch for those who attend (approximately 40). All approved.**
- e. L. Gallagher and M. Bartoszek, EAP liaisons, shared the EAP fall calendar and asked for suggestions for spring workshops and events. Information will be put in the newsletter.
- f. The Membership Committee will host a 10/7/14 **luncheon for department representatives** to discuss responsibilities for the reps (including assisting fee payers to join UUP, keeping EC posted on what's going on in departments, being the UUP's face in departments) and to provide draft guidelines. EC members are also invited. **E. Briere moved and T. Hoey seconded a motion to request funds for lunch for the workshop. All approved.** A similar meeting will be planned for spring.

III. Old Business

- a. **The UUP tailgate event** will be Saturday 10/11/14, before the game. Volunteers are needed and should contact coordinator, T. Hoey.
- b. **Education from the Inside Out:** The national group is working with NY State institutions to ban the box in the admissions process indicating applicants have a former felony conviction. UUP statewide, at our Chapter's urging, has endorsed the EIO legislative campaign and agreed to join as an EIO Coalition Member. EIO has been invited to the winter DA to give a workshop. B. Benjamin reached out to GSA, GSEU, and undergraduate student leaders and will help set up organizing meetings on campus. Volunteers are welcome. This issue has ripple effects with lots of potential for positive change.

IV. Officers' Reports (detailed written reports were provided prior to the meeting)

President: B. Benjamin met with committee chairs regarding planning the year's activities. President Jones is responsive to UUP concerns and will be invited to another EC meeting, perhaps with a more issues-driven focus this time. The new interim provost is meeting with B. Benjamin and seems interested in opening communications. Chapter UUP leadership is meeting with Senate leadership and plans to invite Senate leaders to come to EC meetings. This weekend the capital district area labor federation is doing a canvassing walk for the campaign. Volunteers are invited to participate Saturdays before the vote. There has been much work on tenure cases and it is going well.

VP for Professionals: T. Hoey reported results on the College Review Panel and the College Committee on Professional Evaluation elections and reported the NYC UUP parade was excellent with about 200 UUP people.

VP for Academics: B. Trachtenberg shared concerns related to academic freedom of speech and invoked the recent case of Steven Salaita, a faculty member whose job offer from University of Illinois, Chicago was rescinded over his online comments about Gaza. This issue will also be discussed at the DA as there is a resolution from the Statewide Exec Board on the matter.

Treasurer: R. See is putting together the audit packet for the yearly audit and hopes to have it for the next meeting.

V. New Business

- a. J. Jurkowski mentioned a hearing at Hackett Middle School regarding charter schools and **non-union teachers**.
- b. **B. Benjamin will look into** how much information UUP can convey to members regarding **political candidates**.

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by J Harton.