



United University Professions
Albany Chapter

Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

10.20.2020

Present: Zakhar Berkovich, Aaron Major, Marco Varisco, Laura Wilder, Loretta Pyles, Michael Dzikowski, Janna Harton, Penny Ng, Greta Petry, Bret Benjamin, James Collins, Zina Lawrence, Elizabeth Strum, Alison Olin, Maureen Seidel, Andrew Lyons, Patrick Dobson, Lauren Casertino, Carol Jewell, Sandra Vergari, Tara Evans, Gary Farkas, Ben Weaver, Ronald McClamrock, Thomas Hoey, Deborah LaFond, Patrick Romain, Meredith Weiss, Anne Woulfe, Joe Creamer, Carmen Serrano, Barbara Sutton, Michelle Couture, Laura Wilder, Ronald Friedman

Absent: Richard Burton, Casey Kohler, Robert See, Allison Craig, Samantha Rider,

Deb LaFond wanted to go on record and note that from her perspective voting on the amendments to the bylaws were not presented in a democratic process.

Aaron noted that notes from Labor Management meeting is important to read, as top administrators joined the meeting within 48 hour of the meeting. Management heard and read the resolution. They wanted to respond to it in person.

Carol Jewell recommended that an article be put in The Forum to encourage members to bring up amendments and participate

Comments on the budget meeting:

We need a better clarification of the elimination of the positions. It was noted in the presentation that that 153 positions out of 215 positions will not be filled. They were vacancies. In addition, there will be future attritions anticipated - 28 positions. UUP should receive better breakdown of the non-renewals/layoffs.

The projection models still show increase in expenditures while the reality the expenditures have been frozen. With such modeling is hard to understand the real projections and makes the picture worse than it may be.

There is already one retrenchment – Center for International Development. There were some issues prior to COVID, reduction of soft money since the Center was based on the soft money. None-the-less, the campus is not supporting the center and it will be eliminated in short timeframe.

Aaron Major reported on behalf of Paul Staci noted that Academic Concerns Committee will be meeting and talk about academic department bylaws and have a conversation about bringing back the Diversity and Pluralism

Greta Petry noted that professional concerns committee will be meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at noon. We would love to hear from a broader

Paul agree to serve on the University Senate Shared Governance Task force.

Anne Woulfe noted that she is anticipating to see how Spring will play out, especially how it will reflect on the part time faculty.

Individual Development Awards application are out and are due by the end of November. It is good to know that this negotiated benefit is still being distributed. There is a need to form a review committee from Union side. Generally, the committee composition is one from academic side, professional side, and from library. Carmen Serrano, Laura Wilder, and Tara Evans volunteered to join the committee.

Maureen Seidel and Aaron Major noted that UAlbany is putting forward and will be supporting 12 applications for Drescher Awards, this is by far the largest pool in applications from any campus.

Bret Benjamin noted that the blue ribbon report on contingent faculty just “celebrated” 5 years. It may be good time to review the recommendations and see where the campus is at addressing them.

Aaron Major reminded members that there are elections for three positions at the State Wide UUP including President, Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Development Officer as well as Executive Board. Tom Hoey is running for the MDO position and Bret Benjamin for Executive Board. There are also our chapter elections both for executive board and executive committee. A reminder that while write in voting works, EC member requires at least 5 votes to be able to attend Delegate Assembly.

UUP State wide will be hosting a State Solidarity Phone calls on Thursday, October 22, 2020 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Aaron Major asked Michael Dzikowski, _____, and _____ to serve on the inaugural nomination committee.

Loretta hosted Department Reps meeting two weeks ago. As a result, it was recommended that smaller meetings be hosted to collect information from our members and offer opportunity for member to chat with each other.

Tara Evans noted that there is a new federal regulation that will Establish a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media. This change will significantly affect ability of international students to stay post-graduation. There is opportunity for comments that are being solicited. The new policy will require students to pay additional \$439 and apply to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau to extend their stay. The comment time ends by 10/28/2020. The comments can be made to: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/ICEB-2019-0006>. A message will be sent to the membership and encourage provide comments.

There was a recommendation to re-constitute UUP Diversity Committee made by Patrick. Aaron agreed and will be working on putting this committee together.

Meredith Weiss also shared an event that is being planned on October 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM entitled: “Making a difference a town hall on racial justice, election and making undergraduate voice count.”

There was a motion on the “floor” for chapter to endorse the event that will take place on moved by Deborah LaFond and seconded by Brett Benjamin