



United University Professions  
Albany Chapter

Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

11.23.2020

**Present:** Zakhar Berkovich, Aaron Major, Alison Olin, Allison Craig, Andrew Lyons, Anne Woulfe, Barbara Sutton, Bret Benjamin, Carmen Serrano, Carol Jewell, Casey Kohler, Deborah LaFond, Elizabeth Strum, Gary Farkas, Greta Petry, James Collins, Janna Harton, Lana Sullivan, Laura Wilder, Lauren Casertino, Loretta Pules, Marco Varisco, Meredith Weiss, Michael Dzikowski, Patrick Romain, Paul Stasi, Penny Ng, Robert See, Ronald Friedman, Ronald McClamrock, Samantha Rider, Sandra Vergari, Thomas Hoey, Wendy Roberts, Zina Lawrence

**Absent:** Ben Weaver, Joe Creamer, Maureen Seidel, Michelle Couture, Patrick Dobson, Richard Burton, Tara Evans,

Aaron asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Zina moved to approve as presented.

Aaron submitted his President's report. Please review. He also added the chapter elections will take place in Spring semester. The nominations will be collected between January and February. In March we will have Open forum with candidates. Elections will take place in April with results coming back around June. Aaron also asked to think of potential candidates to bring both for EC and Chapter leadership.

Aaron also mentioned that a SUNY re-opening guidelines were issued recently. They are still in the draft form. Please review and send the comments along. Please hold distributing this document widely until the final version will approved.

It was mentioned that anecdotally, a faculty member was strong-armed to teach in person in Spring 2021 semester. That and any faculty member whose modality were not accommodated should reach out to the chapter leadership.

The committee took on the question about Fall 2021 schedule as it will most likely will come up in the short order. There was no official communication from the management at this point. It is not clear how and when the vaccine will be available and whether the students/faculty/staff will be required to vaccinate. It may be beneficial for UUP chapter to offer some minimum conditions in which the in person teaching should be resumed in the fall semester.

The committees also discussed the intersession closing of the buildings. The staff and faculty may access their buildings but need to submit a request. The building's air circulation will be stopped and if a person is coming in for more than 15-20 minutes the air circulation will need to be turned on.

Aaron quickly reviewed the LM agenda, which included the faculty/staff COVID-19 saliva tests, issues that related to library being opened and the issues that library staff is facing, and follow up to the budget presentation that took place in October.

There was a question brought up about rumors in regards to the re-organization and consolidation. As there are no specific details are there, chapter leadership will follow up with the LM. The committee further discussed that such re-organizations and consolidations have an effect on the type of work that is being produced.

Ron Friedman on behalf of the Peace and Justice committee asked EC to endorse the proposal that came from Women Again War that will end the Korean War officially and achieve the peace on the Korean peninsula. There are international organization that already support this initiatives, the organizations include: Peace Action, AFSC, Code Pink, Vets for Peace and other 39 national and international groups. James Collins seconded the request. A friendly amendment was offered by Carol that this petition be sent to the Statewide as well. Seconded by Janna Harton. The motion passed with one ney.

Bret Benjamin offered a resolution on Faculty Governance and the Process of Humane and Transparent Budgeting that would be going to the Faculty Senate. Zina noted that Senate is working on the shared governance document as well.

Aaron asked members to take a look at the list of new hires and reach out to them with request to join UUP. Aaron will send a general call, but individual out reach out be very useful.

Patrick Romain brought forward a question about what can UUP chapter do to support Black and Latinx faculty and staff. Aaron recommended that we meet and come up with specific initiatives and bring them forward to the leadership.

Elizabeth Strum brought forward a reminder about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. The support letters going to the Governor and your representative could be very useful.

Aaron wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving and enjoyable holiday break.

Meeting adjourn at 1:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Zakhar Berkovich

Secretary.