



**United University Professions  
Albany Chapter**

Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

04.12.2021.

**Present:** Aaron Major, Alison Olin, Allison Craig, Andrew Lyons, Anne Woulfe, Ben Weaver, Bret Benjamin, Casey Kohler, Deborah LaFond, Elizabeth Strum, Greta Petry, Janna Harton, James Collins, Lana Sullivan, Lauren Casertino, Loretta Pules, Marco Varisco, Meredith Weiss, Michelle Couture, Michael Dzikowski, Mike Grosshandler, Patrick Dodson, Patrick Romain, Paul Stasi, Richard Burton, Robert See, Ronald Friedman, Samantha Rider, Sandra Vergari, Thomas Hoey, Wendy Roberts, Zakhar Berkovich, Zina Lawrence

**Absent:** Barbara Sutton, Carmen Serrano, Joe Creamer, Gary Farkas, Janna Harton, Laura Wilder, Penny Ng, Ronald McClamrock, Tara Evans

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.  
Minutes were not available. They will be shared at the next meeting.

2. President's Report.

Aaron has sent his president's report. He also forwarded an email from Fred Kowal about pay increases. There are still some unknowns including when exactly the pay increases will be paid out. There is also a statement by UUP on the passage of State Budget. Some provisions that were anticipated were not passed as initially predicted: closing of the TAP gap will take place over the course of next 2-3 years, no dedicated to funding for operations; no support of the SUNY hospitals. There are, however, some good news from state and federal budgets that do not directly affect UUP but focus on our fellow citizens, including child care.

Members asked whether there is a change in the proposed University budget cuts since State budget did not recommend any cuts. For far, there are no changes to the initially proposed percent cuts. There are some concerns about projections of the enrollments for fall 2021 and that's why budget cuts will remain. Aaron also noted that State indicated that it will be providing funds for the pay increases, which should impact the formulas that campus is currently employing.

A follow up question was made about adjunct appointments. About 50 contingent faculty members were non-renewed. Mr. Hedberg suggested that Fall schedule has 50 more teaching sections but he will look into this.

It was also noted that 14 positions were lost in ITS and 5-6 people are leaving finance and administration. Aaron responded that other units, except from Academic Affairs already made their cuts which is a detriment to the campus. A follow up was made that \$19 million were recovered through cuts in all units except from Academic Affairs.

It was recommended that Todd Foreman be invited to the EC meeting to address already

made cuts and planned cuts in light of the State budget.

3. Open Discussion

A question about telecommuting has been raised. No campus can develop their own telecommuting agreement according to GOER. The management was interested in creating some type of arrangements. The current UAlbany telecommuting policy is rather flexible but more needs to be discussed and likely will be part of the contract negotiations. There is also outstanding questions about mandating having vaccination for faculty and students. The conversation started about vaccination with the Chancellor. A member brought up a concern about proper protocols when campus community will be expecting to return. It was also noted that already some of the colleague are not wearing masks in the offices.

4. Albany Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, nearly one of 500 state and local labor councils.

James Collins have been attending Central Federation and presented key points:

- US labor has been in retreat and suffered losses
  - The standard of living for workers has been declined
- Week of April 26 Central Federation will be supporting federal legislature entitled: Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act). This law would provide protections for workers trying to organize, a measure that is the labor movement's single biggest legislative priority in this Congress.
- Capital District Solidarity will be hosing May Day at AMC. It will be in person event, masks and social distancing will be required.
- Alice Green came from Center of Law and Justice to discuss Police Reform formation in City of Albany

5. Upcoming Events and Supports:

April 30 – Teach-in Panel

- James Collins offered a motion to allow UAlbany's UUP Chapter Zoom to used in the teach in and support May Day event. Tom Hoye seconded. Motion passed as presented.

May 1 – Rally to support Nurses of AMC

#### KM House

Bret Benjamin put a motion forward to allocated \$250 from chapter funds for the KM house restoration and request a follow up from Aaron to members about this project. Seconded by David. Motion passed as presented.

#### Senate Forum

Deborah LaFond shared information about a Senate Forum, entitled Indigenous Peoples of the Northeast: Past, Present and Future and requested up to \$50 in support. Ronald Friedman proposed the motion to support this event. Thomas Hoey seconded. Motion passed as presented. Zina Lawrence also noted that next year there will be a series of 5 events focusing on Indigenous People and the land that UAlbany is currently occupying.

## CORCRAFT

Samantha Rider presented a letter addressed to Chancellor Malatras and COO Berlin that SUNY stop purchasing products provided by Corcraft. Corcraft is the "brand name" for the Division of Correctional Industries, an entity within the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Industries uses the manufacturing of products to assist in the department's overall mission to prepare offenders for release through skill development, work ethic, respect and responsibility.

Corcraft uses a business model to guide decisions and balance costs, market prices and other demands from both the correctional system and non-DOCCS customers. Corcraft is funded through the state budgetary process in conjunction with the passing of the DOCCS agency budget. Corcraft is funded through an Internal Services fund, and the revenue received from the sale of products and services is utilized to cover the expenses associated with operating the program. By law, Corcraft can only sell to government agencies at the state and local levels, schools and universities, courts, fire departments, police departments and certain not-for-profits.

Corcraft is designated a "Preferred Source" supplier by New York State Finance Law Section 162. This means our customers should look to Corcraft first for products that fit the form, function and utility of their application. Customers can buy directly from Corcraft without having to go through a time-consuming bid process.

There was a discussion about exploitive practices of the company but also benefits that training may be provided to the prisoners.

A motion to table was introduced and this letter will be brought back to the EC at the next appropriate meeting.

## TIAA divestment resolution

Ron Friedman reminded EC about the support of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act. The act requested that NYS divest pension funding from Fossil Fuel. While the act was not brought up for vote, NYS Comptroller took on action himself. There was a divestment from the largest fund, but some were kept specifically in the TRS. The new bill is on the floor but focusing on TRS. Ron brought forward a motion to support this bill and send a letter of support. Zakhar Berkovich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## CURCE

CURCE is launching summer research stipends. There will be 5 awards made for \$2000. Students should apply, faculty should encourage applications.

Loretta Pyles is writing article about women caretaking during pandemic. Loretta is looking for input and stories. Please reach out to Loretta directly.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zakhar Berkovich  
Chapter Secretary