



**United University Professions
Albany Chapter**

Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

08.25.2020

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

1. Updates and Labor Management Items

a. Surveillance testing

The issue of testing and surveillance testing. Little information is being provided. We asked about it but limited information is being offered. The question was raised about who is making the calls and what is the status of the Forward Together Committees.

SUNY Wide Faculty Senate president forwarded message that went out from SUNY to all SUNY Campuses Presidents COVID cases tracking and reporting does not have to be public.

What is the trigger point for when the campus should be closed? There was no answer given by the President. It was noted that it was multiple criteria.

If the information about COVID numbers will be shared, when will it be done. Where the data will come from? Who is going to be seeing it?

It was mentioned that some administrators allow students to remove masks during the meetings. This goes against the COVID pledge that students took. It should not be up to individual administrator/faculty but a standard practice.

The UAlbany UUP Letter (written by Aaron) to the Provost prompted accommodation to the changes. It seems that overall requests were accommodated. Only the changes that were put in few days before classes begun were denied.

It was suggested that some adjuncts and graduate students were not given opportunity to share their preference of teaching modality. When they tried to request the change of modality, the response was negative. We can try to use other ways to try to assist our members to change their modality.

The question was asked about how the budget cuts will be implemented? Are there enough opportunity given to the units to make appropriate decisions and what if the units are not able to achieve the expectations.

2. Pay / work hours incentive program

Aaron discussed Voluntary Reduction in Work Schedule program. There are concerns about how the program is being rolled out and there are some risks that professionals may face, if they do not go about this carefully. Members are asked to consult with UUP leadership before opting into these types of programs.

3. SUNY Faculty Senate no confidence vote in SUNY BOT.

SUNY Faculty Senate sent vote of no confidence in the SUNY BOT because of the lack of process in the search for new chancellor and appointment of the new chancellor. The question is whether EC should take a stand and issue a statement/resolution. It was agreed that a resolution should be drafted and language can be reviewed vial email and vote can take place online.

Other Business:

Maureen Seidel will be retiring at the end of August. We want to express our sincere thanks for all the support she offered the chapter. We wish her a happy retirement (she got away just in time). Maureen will be replaced by _____.