



**United University Professions  
Albany Chapter**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, 9/1/2021**

Present: A. Major, J. Carron, S. Vergari, S. Rider, D. Robbins, C. Levy, M. Weiss, A. Dawson, G. Hetland, D. Banks, M. Couture, M. Grosshandler, D. LaFond, S. Loughlin, J. Leirey, A. Olin, M. Bartoszck, B. Shardrick, B. Benjamin, K. Coddington, L. Casertino, G. Petry, C. Kohler, B. Sutton, Z. Lawrence, M. Dzikowski, A. Woulfe, P. Strobeck, J. Harton, P. Stasi, E. Strum, K. LaPerle

1. There were no minutes from the May meeting.
2. Aaron Major welcomed the new delegates and all to a new and challenging semester in the face of a continuing health emergency.
3. The President's report went out ahead of the meeting with the agenda.
4. No reports from other officers/committees. These were postponed within the agenda, and time ran out.
5. Two Chapter appointments were nominated and voted on.

Grievance Chair – Bret Benjamin has been serving as acting Grievance Chair. John Leirey was nominated for the position and voted in. Thanks to Bret for his work in this role.

Officer of Contingents – Anne Woulfe needed to step down. David Banks was nominated for the position and voted in. Thanks to Anne for her work in this role.

A concern was raised that although the appointments were made according to the by-laws, broader EC opportunity for nominating individuals would be more democratic.

6. Two funding requests from Patrick Romain to celebrate the retirement of Maritza Martinez, Director of EOP.

The first request was for a contribution to an EOP undergraduate scholarship fund. The Chapter voted to donate \$250. There were three abstentions.

The second request was to help cover the cost of the retirement party and gift to Maritza. \$1800 was incurred for the celebration. Could this be a gift of our UUP chapter, and perhaps split with Statewide UUP? The justification was that EOP students consistently rally at our lobbying days at the Capitol and support UUP's on-campus activism. Members of the EC felt this would set a precedent for spending and recommended establishing a standard Chapter policy for retirements. No motion was made for a vote on this funding, but individuals were encouraged to donate by contacting Patrick Romain.

7. Contract negotiations and non-member recruitment.

Steps leading up to the Contract negotiations of 2022 will begin soon. This includes the establishment of several committees including a statewide team that includes Aaron Major and Bret Benjamin. An all-day Capital District Region meeting for elected delegates is scheduled for Sept. 23. This is virtual and will include workshops and a town hall. Member town halls (no dates yet) will be set during the fall to gain in-put and feedback on issues of concern. Once these general town halls have dates, tabling and campus outreach will be needed on campus to raise member energy and hear member issues. A recommendation was made for a listening session for members. Recorded concerns would be great for bargaining. We as individuals/department reps could meet with members on their own as well. It will be important to make contact with non-members for recruitment. Aaron emailed a list of non-members. A strong UUP presence going into the negotiations, means strong bargaining position.

Some concerns voiced in this EC meeting were against directives delivered by CAS and the Provost's office, especially with regard to modality of teaching, required in-person meetings and required RSVPs to meetings at a time when Covid contagion is still a worry. It was suggested a public statement be drafted voicing concerns about safety such as blanket denials of ADA requests and inflexibility to mitigate health risks. Billie Franchini took careful notes during the August 18 UUP/ ITLAL forum which captured teaching concerns as the semester was opening. These notes may be helpful. Members can sign-on to an open letter/public statement with concrete asks and general principles of listening-to-faculty.

This concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Strum