

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
January 22, 2015

Attendees: B. Benjamin, P. Breiner, J. Collins, L. Gallagher, J. Gendron, J. Greiman, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, D. LaFond, G. Landsman, G. Petry, P. Romain, R. See, B. Shadrack, P. Stasi, I. Steen, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, R. Vives, B. Weaver, M. Weiss, L. Wilder, L. Wittner, K. Thompson-LaPerle

I. Minutes

The meeting minutes from 12/11/14 with one change were moved by T Hoey, seconded by G Petry and approved by all (with 1 abstention).

II. Labor Management Notes

12/16/14 notes were reviewed. EC members inquired about when the new provost will begin and how the contingents committee is progressing. Officers will inquire at L/M.

III. Chapter Elections

Everyone received email notice of and an outline of the process for the upcoming elections. To run for delegate or officer requires self-nomination and name and signature on a form that must be mailed to UUP headquarters postmarked not later than 2/4/15. EC delegates require only one vote and can write in on the ballot. Candidate statements for the newsletter are also due to P Stasi 2/4/15 so the newsletter can be printed and get to the membership before the vote. All were invited to self-nominate and asked to encourage others. Forms were passed around for anyone wanting to self-nominate immediately. The 2/17/15 general membership meeting in the Campus Center ballroom will be short with a budget vote and followed by a candidates' forum. Ballots should come shortly after that meeting and voting should be open about a month. Statewide will count the votes and provide results in March. All officer positions are open for anyone to run.

All were also encouraged to consider self-nominating as a NYSUT or AFT delegate. In the past there were not enough nominees for a full delegation. This requires travel (NYSUT annually in-state travel, AFT national travel every other year) and unlike UUP delegates are not fully funded, but there are significant speakers and important business gets done in these committees. Attendance at these meetings is published.

IV. Budget

R See noted there are insufficient funds in the general membership category to cover the expected costs of the general membership meeting. There are enough funds overall, but not in that category. The general membership meetings have been large, the Sodexo food service costs are much more than their predecessor (Chartwells) and previous projections, and the way we are currently paying for EC meals has resulted in some savings there. R See proposed shifting \$1400 from the EC category to general membership and in the printing and duplicating category moving \$75 from postage and allowing him to move up to \$800 from savings as needed to cover these costs the rest of the year. B Trachtenberg moved, T Hoey seconded and all approved.

R See presented a 2015-16 draft budget (the budget year starts 9/1/15). There has been a change in agency fee such that social events are now not agency fee (the \$5 per person holiday party subsidy is listed in workshop expenses now, not as agency fee). Each chapter gets fixed funds based on membership numbers and develops a budget from there. Any amount needed over that can be requested in a supplemental allocation, which would be submitted at the same time as the budget. Nine chapters requested additional funds last year and most were approved. The restriction is chapters cannot have more than \$10K in savings. Albany has \$11K, which prevents us from asking for supplemental allocations from statewide. Savings used to grow, but now are about even. Sodexo and release time expenditures are increasing, and the chapter has held more and bigger workshops, making it harder to save. We have not spent much on agency fee this year. We lost 80 members when Nano left although the overall membership has grown. Supreme Court decisions may impact future budget allocations so the chapter should be strategic about how we spend the funds and keep some in savings in case that is needed later. The newsletter is “free” from statewide—funding comes from NYSUT. We paid for the elections issue to turn it around quickly this year and plan to do the same in election years. T Hoey moved to approve the budget as presented, B Trachtenberg seconded and it was approved unanimously (no abstentions). The EC will continue the conversation on savings and what to do with the funds (e.g., chapter shirts to make members visible in crowds).

V. DA Preparation

The DA is this weekend followed by Advocacy Day at the capitol on Tuesday. One more academic is needed to have a full delegation. There will be an election 5pm Sunday with a candidates’ forum at 3pm. A variety of committees are meeting and Education from the Inside Out will be presenting and will be here Tuesday to meet with Admissions and have a social justice discussion downtown. All were urged to participate in advocacy, particularly now with a pending budget and attacks on public education. There is an orientation session Tuesday morning, volunteers work in groups and UUP has set appointment times with legislators.

VI. New Business

- a. There was a \$50 funding request for pizza for a 1/27/15 EIO Social Justice event on Central Avenue with a 6-8:30pm film screening and panel discussion about education access. This will be agency fee. GSA is also contributing. L Wittner moved, T Hoey seconded and all approved (no abstentions).
- b. There was a funding request for the contingents’ workshop 2/25/15 to discuss contingents concerns at UAlbany and hear preliminary results of the recent contingents survey. This is a national contingents walkout day. B Benjamin reiterated NY public employees are prohibited from participating in walkouts. P Romain moved and T Hoey seconded that lunch be provided to participants. All approved. L Wittner moved and B Trachtenberg seconded that if necessary we could draw funds from savings. All approved.
- c. B Benjamin asked UUP statewide regarding funding for 60 EOP t-shirts with the UUP logo and is waiting to hear. If we need to vote on this we can do so by email.

- d. A university panel to review issues and challenges of contingent faculty at UAlbany has been formed. UUP, deans, Senate and GSA were asked to nominate participants. Several UUP recommendations were taken. The roster has been approved by GOV. The group will be chaired by the provost, will have support staff from his office, may meet once a week and participants will participate in listening sessions on each campus. We should invite these committee members to contingent events to discuss such issues as compensation, assessment, mentoring and professional development.
- e. During the national contingents walkout, the EC asked if UUP should put an ad in the ASP in support of contingents or have a table in the Campus Center and provide a contingents fact sheet. GSEU will be doing work in public spaces at the university, such as the grade-ins at the administration building atrium as in past years. Some action showing UAlbany contingents UUP support would be welcome.
- f. The Website Committee is refining a new site mock-up provided by a member with web design skills. The website has been image poor and the committee hopes to include action photos for a more vibrant site. If members have good photos (and permission to use them), please provide these to B Benjamin.
- g. UUP does not get a list of students to share UUP scholarship application information. UAlbany has not had a student receive the award for some time. The EC discussed putting an ad in the ASP and asking administration for a list. D LaFond moved and L Wilder seconded that UUP put an ad in the ASP for the UUP scholarships if this is under \$100.
- h. D LaFond invited all to the upcoming capital district feminist conference. B Benjamin will send a blast email with more information.

VII. Officers' Reports

Reports were provided prior to the meeting. No concerns were raised.

Meeting adjourned 1:55 pm. Minutes submitted by J Harton.