

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter**

January 30, 2013

Attendees: B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, E. Briere, J. Collins, C. Fox, R. Friedman, L. Gallagher, J. Gendron, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, M. Knee, D. LaFond, G. Landsman, M. Manjak, A. Olin, G. Petry, B. Pyszczymuka, M. Seidel, B. Shadrick, P. Stasi, I. Steen, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, J. Uppal, R. Vives, E. Warnke, L. Wittner, K. Thompson-LaPerle

Meeting commenced at 12:20pm

J. Collins requested any and all petitions for UUP Chapter elections. Collins will mail out to the Elections Office at UUP Statewide. Collins circulated several sympathy cards. Andy Haas, our UUP member passed away recently. Donations will be accepted in his name.

I. Approval of Minutes - Minutes from the October 19, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting moved by Hanifan and were approved with no corrections. Minutes from the October 24, 2012 EC meeting moved by Hoey were approved. There were 4 abstentions. Minutes from the December 5, 2012 EC Meeting moved by Hoey and Hanifan were approved with minor corrections. 5 abstentions.

II. Reports

A. Officers

1. **President** - J. Collins invited members to attend U Albany day. Two members requested that UUP be allowed representation at the event. J. Collins will follow-up. There will be buses leaving from Collins Circle.

Labor Management meeting on January 28th – J. Collins reported that UUP Chapter officers met with President Jones, for a brief cup of coffee where Collins re-invited President Jones to come to the EC. One member on the *Presidential Transitional Committee* stated that there are 101 items on the President's list but that the meeting with the EC will remain on the list.

Collins said, Labor Management continues to be a learning experience. J. Collins appreciated reports from Exec members. Collins reported on the MLK/Solidarity event on January 21st, that it was quite a good event. The *Clean Healthy New York* organization was present. There were two panels and a very broad and mixed audience. There was a workshop on anti-gun violence, new State Assembly Members Fahy and McDonald III addressed gun violence and the decline in funding of education. J. Collins distributed Martin Luther King's quotes regarding the labor movement to EC members.

J. Collins stated that he is not proposing 2 membership meetings this semester. J. Collins proposed Wednesday March 27th for the General Membership meeting to pass budget through a membership vote. A motion to hold and fund the General Membership meeting on March 27th was made seconded by Olin and Hanifan. Motion carried. Campus Ballroom is reserved.

One member asked about timeline on potential contract announcement to membership. LRS suggested that the ratification announcement is 6 weeks. No questions from President report.

2. Vice President for Academics - B. Benjamin sent report in advance e-mail. B. Benjamin met with GSEU and they are eager to meet with other unions on campus. Benjamin discussed constructing a committee on academic concerns. The first preliminary meeting was in December 2012 where a group of academics met and discussed plans to systematically address a set of academic questions facing people across the campus. A proposal to consider a standing committee and discussion on whether or not bylaws would be needed ensued. A motion to constitute an Ad Hoc committee to address academic concerns was proposed and seconded. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Benjamin outlined new Writing Program concerns regarding online education from recent labor management discussion and immediate impacts for online education. J. Collins addressed discussions on this in the 1/28/13 L/M meetings. To the union question, "Under whose auspices will the Writing Program be placed?", the Provost's response was that it would be under the Provost's office. Discussion continued regarding on online education environment, potential best practices, and ground rules about who owns online content. J. Collins suggested we take these concerns back to the LM. LRS suggested that we speak with Jamie Dangler first. One member asked, "Can you clarify what is coming?" L/M had a discussion of OPEN SUNY degree initiatives articulated by the SUNY Chancellor. The plan is to roll out in 2014. Cross registering across campuses, for example, could allow students to fulfill GENED courses for their major from other campus courses. Creating easily transferrable credits is one of the stated goals of the Chancellor. Currently we are doing online MA programs and there are online graduate courses. One member asked if faculty waive their rights to their own content if teaching online and asked whether faculty know about this? LRS stated that under the SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Article 11, this is addressed. One member asked how would online learning work for teaching language? Collins stated that his impression was that the Provost had not considered all the implications.

An officer raised the concern of who is collecting money for these courses. LRS stated that each student pays tuition at their own campus. Question: "Why would they take a course at U Albany if cheaper somewhere else?" Discussion included whether or not there is evidence to show quality in online vs "Bricks and Mortar" education models. LRS stated that partnering with EMPIRE to assess online education has been discussed. One member asked, "Do faculty have a right to say no?" LRS will consider and get back to EC members.

3. Vice President for Professionals – T. Hoey proposed a UUP Chapter Candidates Forum. Motion for candidates forum for upcoming election was made and seconded. A decision was made to wait until February 19th EC meeting to decide when the candidate forum will be. Bylaws need to be consulted to decide on process. A paper copy of the ballot will be out in March. Completed ballots are due on March 20th. J. Collins asked T. Hoey to come back to the next meeting on Feb 19th to discuss what fits with the bylaws. Executive Committee voted in favor of having a forum.

A members of the newsletter committee added that all candidates can submit candidate statements to the Forum by FEB 14th for a special issue of the newsletter devoted to the elections. Candidate statement needs to be received by M. Manjak by COB on Feb 14th. Statements can be 150 words for delegates, and 250 words max for officers. If running for both, two statements should be submitted.

T. Hoey sent a report in advance via e-mail. Hoey announced the upcoming bullying workshop and took the suggestion from another member to invite as a blast e-mail message. All agreed. J. Collins will send out a blast e-mail on the anti-bullying workshop. Hoey will continue to investigate appropriate purchase of megaphone for meetings. EC members approved the \$150.00 expense. No objections.

Hoey reported on concerns for brothers and sisters downstate and stated that he attended the downstate protest on January 8th, that 12 – 15 Chapter members attended with a good crowd.

4. Secretary - D. LaFond stated that apart from the recent January 28th L/M meeting, all draft minutes to date were sent to the President for final edits. D. LaFond initiated a request to meet with President to discuss and sort out expectations of the role and clarify aspects. Meeting will occur next week. Acting Secretary thanked K. LaPerle and M. Knee for clarity on transmission of minutes to Web site. Secretary invited any questions or concerns.

5. Treasurer - A. Olin discussed supplemental allocations and shared guidelines. Treasurer asked members to please look at the guidelines for the next meeting. First quarter ended in December with \$15K. Treasurer stated that we are not close to being in the red. If we know who is running for office of the President, we could begin to factor the release time figure. \$1000.00 was budgeted for the future towards *The Forum* newsletter. Treasurer's deadline to submit to UUP Statewide is April 1st. Olin will bring back for the Feb. 19th meeting.

6. Contingent Faculty - J. Hanifan and J. Collins are meeting with new committee. Hanifan reminded the group to consider the 2nd amendment on contingents discussed at last EC meeting. Delegates are required to be there to vote at the Monday afternoon at the DA plenary. 5 UUP Chapters have signed on. Information is published in *The VOICE*. B. Benjamin asked Hanifan to send talking points to the EC regarding what you would like to see. Hanifan agreed.

B. Standing Committees

Solidarity – report on Jan. 8th rally for Downstate Medical campus. Request for Chapter co-sponsorship of speaker at the Albany Law School - Feb. 26th 2013. Author and Speaker Marjorie Heins will speak on "Priests of our Democracy" at the Albany Law School. L. Wittner moved that we would co-sponsor with name only. Motion seconded by Hoey. Motion passed unanimously. Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. 1928 Building - West Wing Classroom (W212). For further information, contact Prof. Steve Gottlieb: 518-445-2348 or sgott@albanylaw.edu

Health and Safety – Chair addressed tunnel issues, health concerns, and air quality issues which hopefully will be resolved soon. Closing of the bathrooms in LC sub-basement was addressed with S. Beditz who stated better communication is needed. Another member stated that numerous people have slipped in parking lots and on slippery podium tiles which have very little gripping material.

Affirmative Action - Member of committee reported that committee has not met but request for co-sponsorship was made.

As member of the committee, D. LaFond requested EC co-sponsorship and \$75.00 to support the Harriet Tubman Symposium that the Women's Studies Department has planned for March 8th in honor of International Women's Day. This would also support the UUP Statewide recently passed resolution to support events to honor International Women's Day on all campuses. Motion to co-sponsor and offer \$75 toward support of the event out of Good and Welfare funds was approved. All invited.

Membership - Chair asked EC members to identify where bulletin boards are needed. Chair attended Webinars for membership development. The committee is reaching out to all fee payers and trying to get more folks to sign on. The committee invites Department Representatives to join in this.

Parking Committee - Chair asked for any info on where E-TEC parking is proposed.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

III. Old Business

1. **Discussion Item: Proposal for Funding Member-Driven Events** J. Collins will address in his Feb 19th report. Hopes to have some criteria regarding when agency fee and when "Good and Welfare" Currently there is \$500.00 in the Good and Welfare fund.

2. **Chapter Website** - Move to New Server? Web Manager stated that technically a move or re-direct to a new server is possible but searchability for UUP on the campus would disappear off the university site. If we want to keep it searchable it doesn't make sense to move. J. Collin

asked Web Manager to consider and investigate further and thanked those for the work done on this.

3. Update: Poverty Scholar Willie Baptist's Visit – Originally date was Friday April 5th but the date will change to Wednesday April 3, since the sponsoring School of Social Welfare does not have classes on Friday. This means that the speaker cannot meet with the EC on Friday April 5th as planned, but could meet on Wednesday, April 5th.

IV. New Business

1. Nominations of Two New Members to Contingent Concerns Committee - Nominations for new member of Annette Ritchie to join the Contingents Concerns committee. Approved by EC.

2. Funding for Pre-DA Luncheon – EC Approved funding for Thursday, February 21, 2013
The meeting will be held in the Dane's Den.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm

Corrections amended by Acting Secretary on February 20th, 2013

Approved with corrections by UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee on February 19th, 2013

Edited by President and sent to Executive Committee on February 14th, 2013

Respectfully submitted to President by Acting Secretary Deborah LaFond on February 13, 2013