

**UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2009**

Attendees: M. Seidel, I. Steen, C. Merbler, C. Jewell, G. Petry, M. Knee, N. Keelen, J. Gendron, E. King, L. Wittner, S. D'Alessandro, J. Collins, M. Grosshandler, F. Jaquez, J. Uppal, J. Hanifan, L. Bickmore, P. Romain, K. Thompson-LaPerle

The meeting commenced at 12:35 pm.

- I. Approval of minutes from 9/2/09 Executive Committee Meeting:
Collins moved, King seconded. Discussion. Steen requested that his report say “busy summer dealing with a variety of issues with academic members.” The vote carried, with the minutes amended as requested.

President Merbler announced that the Good and Welfare envelope would be passed around as usual, and that the money would go towards the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” fund. Please make checks out to “American Cancer Society.” Keelen said our goal is \$400, and today we raised an additional \$112!

II. Reports

A. Officers

1. President

1. President Merbler thanked delegates again for attending the UUP fall 2009 Delegate Assembly.
2. As to the Leadership Workshops at Otesaga, the responses are due this coming Friday. Steen is going and Merbler may go to part of it.
3. The Albany Chapter Leadership Directory will be going to print soon,. Some information is still missing.
4. Chartwell’s labor issue: Merbler indicated that it is a complicated issue with two groups claiming to be the bargaining agent for the employees. Employees still under contract for an additional year. Case is pending in the courts and should be resolved soon. Wittner made some comments addressing the “time-being,” but we don’t know how long a period that is or will actually be. Collins asked a question about shop stewards. More discussion. Merbler serves on the UAS Board of Directors and has presented both sides of the issue in her written report. Wittner will maintain contact.
5. Merbler has been invited to meet with the Provost to talk about an impending Strategic Planning process. Process will actually take a little under a year.
6. The Governor’s budget cuts: See #7 for “what this means.”

7. President Smith says that this means layoffs, but we can't be sure. Cuts currently geared toward energy savings, travel restrictions and delaying equipment purchases.
8. There will be Advocacy training on 10/28/09. President Philip said Merbler will mention advocacy work (at the Legislature) at tomorrow's University Faculty meeting; Philip supports us. Brief discussion. YOU are the Union. Several members spoke about President Philip's mixed message views of UUP. Need more clarification that Philip is upset with UUP Central and not the local leadership, with who he works well.
9. We need raffle items for the General Membership meeting, to be held in the CC Ballroom, November 17, 2009, from Noon-2 pm. Money goes toward the food bank. King urged the Executive Committee to donate raffle items.

Add-on

1. Merbler has been appointed to a Strategic Planning Committee on Workplace Violence Prevention, at Tamra Minor's invitation.
-

2. **VP for Academics:** No report.
3. **VP for Professionals:** No report; he is at a conference in California.
4. **Secretary:** The minutes are up to date. That is my report.
5. **Treasurer:** Report distributed at the meeting. We have money. An audit was submitted. Merbler accepted Romain's resignation as Chapter Treasurer. Thank you and applause for Romain.
6. **PT Rep-**No immediate report.

B. Standing Committees

1. Solidarity: Time to pay our annual dues to the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District. Wittner gave many reasons to continue paying our dues. Wittner moved to pay dues in the amount of \$250. Hanifan seconded. Merbler: This may have to wait until we have a new Treasurer. Collins spoke in favor of us paying our annual dues. The vote carried.
2. Social: The last page in today's packet has information on the Holiday Gala from LaComb.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Peace and Justice: Collins discussed their agenda for this year: cost of the Afghan war and single payer healthcare, including the public option; this is in your packet today. Brief discussion. Jewell will ask Collins to write an article for *The Forum* on this.

III. **Old Business:** None

IV. **New Business:** Appointment of a new Treasurer: Merbler gave some background of the situation, said that we did not buy the file cabinet that Romain had requested, and then moved Alison Olin's name, as Chapter Treasurer, Steen seconded. Collins asked a question about another former candidate. Merbler gave some background information. The vote carries. Congratulations to Olin, who will hopefully be in attendance at our next meeting.!

Steen moved to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H. Jewell,
Secretary