



**United University Professions
Albany Chapter**

Executive Committee Minutes, December 1, 2021

Attendance: Aaron Major, Barbara Sutton, David Banks, Kate Coddington, Greta Petry, Laura Tetrault, Josh Sheridan, Andrew Lyons, Barry Esannason, Monica Bartoszek, Marco Varisco, Alex Dawson, Paul, Stasi, Casey Kohler, Parick Romain, Zina Lawrence, Meredith Weiss, Gabriel Hetland, Jennifer Carron, John Leirey, Sandra Vergari, Penny Strobeck, Patrick Dodson, Lauren Casertino, Sheena Loughlin, Michael Dzikowski, Rob See, Anne Woulfe, Janna Harton, Deborah LaFond, Michelle Couture, Gabriel Hetland, Morgan Sammons, Elizabeth Strum

October 2021 EC Minutes were approved.

President's Report. There is a lot of money for IDAs, and it should be spent before the contract negotiations or the amount will be lost. Awards have been slow to be paid out. State auditing has delayed the process. Christine Wagner will be taking over IDAs as administrator. One librarian, one professional and one academic will help with the processing. There will be two rounds of applications this year. The first announcement will be coming out soon. May will introduce another round. It's possible to apply twice. Part-time lecturers and graduate students should take advantage. The funds can go to things like conferences or tuition but buying physical objects is problematic because they end up being owned by the State. Monies can't cover salaries for research help.

There was a question about telecommuting during intersession. Aaron will follow-up with HR, but working from home during intersession is not considered telecommuting, so no paperwork is necessary.

The new global studies school proposal was discussed because there's been a lot of confusion. Aaron noted that the idea is to combine programs to create a new college. Management insists that it will not be forced through, but the Provost was hoping to boost the profile of programs this way. This may be an opportunity for departments to chime-in, but the union is not the arbiter on this and shouldn't be. There was worry that the idea may not disappear, and that some programs may be promoted with others being marginalized. Although not a union issue, but if the interest is in reducing staff, then it becomes a union issue. The LACS department is interested in staying within CAS. CAS, as it is, could be promoted and supported more. It was felt that pedagogy and faculty should lead on programs, not the administration. By singling out and separating programs, does that make it easier to deactivate them?

Budget meeting: It was disconcerting that Todd spoke of the pandemic money saved (from not replacing people/retirements) being put toward things that did not seem critical. There was also discussion of the Tap Gap and Todd seemed to be encouraging advocacy. We, as a union, need to be loud. Currently the Assembly supports closing the Tap Gap, the Senate is indifferent and the Governor's opinion is unknown. We need to follow how the money is being spent as well as advocate for more.

Contract negotiations: Paul Stasi and Janna Harton are serving on the Ad Hoc Committee. Both encouraged Professionals and Academics to speak up on their needs. Under-represented groups and graduate students may see issues from unique angles so their voices should be heard. It's important to know *why* an issue is important to various members.

Due to time constraints, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Strum