

Albany UUP EC Meeting
December 12, 2017

Attendees:

B. Benjamin, E. Briere, T. Evans, R. Friedman, J. Harton, A. Lotmore, A. Major, M. Manjak, R. McClamrock, P. Ng, G. Petry, L. Pyles, B. Pyszczymuka, W. Roberts, G. Robinson, P. Romain, K. Smith-Howard, P. Stasi, B. Sutton, R. Tolley, M. Varisco, C. Walcek, L. Wilder, & K. Thompson-LaPerle.

1. October Minutes - Greta and Paul motioned to approve them. The motion passed unanimously with 4 abstentions

2. Greta's CAP Proposal – (See Attached). We've been approached by Sodexo to raise \$10,000 - ½ would go to St. Vincent's and ½ to the Regional Food Bank. Thus, we would combine efforts (walkers and runners) and raise more money. She is asking for approval to fund the event. The money comes from statewide, but our chapter needs to approve it. Sodexo will provide insurance, snacks, and other supports that were onerous for us last year. We'll also set up a table with UUP info, t-shirts, etc. Also, it was noted that between July and October, 25 students used the pantry. Greta will send out a flyer about the Food Pantry so we can distribute and continue to get the word out. People expressed support of the proposal and noted that it seems like a good opportunity to collaborate and be more impactful. Greta made a motion to approve the CAP application and Paul seconded. Everyone was in favor with no abstentions.

3. Labor-Management meeting – Things seem to be moving ahead with efforts to improve conditions for contingents. It turns out that Rodriguez has done this work before at a previous institution, though he did say that he was suspicious of permanency for contingents. He likes long-term contracts but not necessarily permanency. It was noted though that when it comes to upping the salary of contingents, management was fairly silent. Permanency is still an important issue and it may require educating our own members too.

-Regarding graduate student targets, it should be noted that raising targets also means more work to meet these students' needs (with no new resources). Someone brought up that the new graduate student admissions system is more efficient but there are more surveillance features which we should be aware of. It was noted that the reporting and monitoring about contact time with students is perhaps not a productive use of faculty time.

-A survey, from the Center for Research, is circulating asking what % time faculty spend on research. There were concerns voiced about this and the implications for our research loads and we discussed perhaps creating a unified union response (e.g., 30% of our time on research) and getting organized for the next time around.

-Aaron clarified the issue of budget cuts that was addressed in the L-M meeting, which was essentially a re-distribution of cuts that all departments made. Also, he clarified that a Contingent dash board would allow us to see the status of contingents. Overall, the President re-iterated his talking points about increasing graduate students, capital campaign, etc. Cathy Tretheway from Human Resources has left and she was a good resource, and somebody new will be stepping into that role. Also, Maureen is taking on an extra caseload.

4. President's Report – Aaron reviewed all the successes of the Fall semester. We turned out 250 people to a rally with 2 weeks' notice! It speaks to the work we have done over the last several years. Thanks to

Kelly for all of the work she does. Other events included the contingent art show, family leave workshop, and downtown luncheon. It speaks to what can happen when members are empowered to spearhead things. We should perhaps think about follow-ups in the Spring to keep the momentum moving. One idea included a teach-in to connect to union issues as well as national issues.

5. Reports from Officers and Committees - Newsletter is out and looks great. Patrick discussed issues with professionals as well as members wanting to know the state of the contract. We want to do a professional workshop next semester and hope to do a tenure workshop as well.

6. Winter DA – Please sign-up by Jan. 19th or Jan. 3rd if you need a room. The DA consists of workshops, plenary, and outreach action. There are new statewide initiatives around outreach and legislative action. The second plenary is more action-oriented (voting) and there is an academic and professional session right before the 2nd plenary. Members can go to the legislative day from Albany (rather than driving from Saratoga with the group). Doing the legislative work is important to get our raises too.

7. Chapter membership - Current figures are available. Not much has changed, but things are certainly better since we started the membership drive in 2015. Our biggest chunk of fee payers are in CEHC and we are working on a strategy to get them signed up.

8. Planning ahead for Spring – There will be a recognition event in the Spring for contingents. We may want to consider moving the date to earlier in the semester. The university is planning a general recognition ceremony for faculty/staff. Also, there will be May Day events. The Women’s Concerns Committee is trying to put together some programming for the Spring as well. There will be workshops on workload for professionals and academics, too. New York Renews (which is an environmental and labor partnership) is trying to pass the Climate and Community Protection Act, to urge 100% renewable energy in the state, and is considered a piece of model legislation. They have a lobby day and you can register as a member of UUP. Many downstate labor organizations will show up with their members. Organizers have also tried to work with TIAA about divesting from fossil fuels. They are open to this if we could get a grassroots effort. We could have an event around this in the Spring. We may want to bring this conversation into the union more strategically. February 13 is UUP Advocacy Day.

9. New Business - Bret moved that our chapter donates \$100 to the Albany Solidarity Committee to hotel workers at Albany Hilton in order to give holiday dinners to the workers. They are actively pursuing a contract. On Tue., Dec. 19, they will have a holiday party with a chance to join the picket and then go to the Labor Temple and have a holiday party. They are out there 8 am – 8 pm every day and we are encouraged to join the line whenever we can. Marco seconded this motion. We will have to ask Allison where the money comes from (good and welfare, or agency fee?). The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

-Ron made a motion to request funding on behalf of the Peace and Justice Committee. There is a speaker lined up in March, Miriam Pemberton, who will give a talk on the federal budget, militarization, and the planet. The committee is asking for \$200 towards a speaker fee and logistics. Loretta seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Minutes submitted by: Loretta Pyles