

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
February 19, 2013

Attendees: B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, E. Briere, J. Collins, S. Dearing, C. Fox, L. Gallagher, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, M. Knee, D. LaComb, D. LaFond, C. Merbler, A. Olin, G. Petry, R. See, M. Seidel, I. Steen, B. Trachtenberg, R. Vives, E. Warnke, B. Weaver, M. Williams, L. Wittner, B. Ziman, K. Thompson-LaPerle

I. MINUTES

The Executive Committee meeting minutes from 1/30/13 were approved with minor changes (one abstention).

II. REPORTS

A. Officers

1. **President** Jim Collins supplemented his pre-meeting report sharing observations from attending UAlbany Day. He stated the importance of advocating for funding for our university and noted our legislators did so. He spoke with President Jones there and this morning at L/M, reiterating UUP works hard to advocate for SUNY. They both agreed there is common ground to advocate for funding. Reminders: the pre-DA lunch is Thursday 2/21/13 1-2pm in the Dane's Den and although the advocacy training 2/26/13 was canceled, anyone who can take part in advocacy on 2/26 is encouraged to do so and let Eileen Landy know. DA scholarship fund donations and cookbook recipes are being sought (Candy Merbler will email information to the EC).
2. **Vice President for Academics** Bret Benjamin shared he continues to address the issues shared at the last meeting, is pressing on writing program concerns (through L/M), workload matters including better job security (this is going system-wide), developing an academic concerns committee and working on member concerns.
3. **Vice President for Professionals** Tom Hoey consulted with Rob See regarding the bylaws and a candidates forum. Bylaws say that a forum must be announced 2 weeks in advance and should be held prior to ballots being sent out. This may be an impossible timeline. We missed the window this time, however, the group decided to hold the forum despite the late date believing it better late than not at all and felt it may be a way to get more member participation. He will contact candidates, identify a date, and get information out to hold it in 2 weeks. The safety issue related to a battery situation was resolved this past weekend per today's L/M meeting.
4. **Secretary** Deborah LaFond has met with the president and discussed clarifying the role of secretary and plans to bring proposed clarifications to the EC soon.
5. **Treasurer** Alison Olin moved that EC approve the room rental fee for the forum on a date TBD since this was not recorded in previous minutes. Approved. A draft budget for the 2013-14 year was provided with the pre-meeting materials and was discussed. Estimates were based

on trends from the past 3 years, allowing for price increases/inflation (note: release time for the president will change following the election; newsletter costs were separated which was not done in the past). If we find we are spending more than we take in, we will have to become more selective about spending chapter funds. We can apply for supplemental funds.

6. **Contingent Faculty Representative** Jil Hanifan shared there is a Contingent Employees Speakout planned 3/7/13 6:30pm at the Patroon Room. She requested funds for the room and refreshments (coffee/cookies). Approved. This session may be especially helpful for those on term appointments as new semester plans are being made. She asked for the EC's help in getting information to department reps and contingents. She will send an email blast and provide fliers. An amendment is coming at the Plenary Session that will be discussed at the pre-DA meeting. She will provide talking points and FAQs there and plans to email these to the EC. There is opposition from some chapters.

B. Standing Committees

1. Committee updates were provided in the pre-meeting email.
2. Grievance Officer Greta Petry shared that a grievance has been filed.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Peace and Justice sponsors events each year and plans to host Tuesday 4/9/13 in the Recital Hall a documentary about homelessness in Albany, "The Throwaways" (made by a local filmmaker). GSEU is co-sponsoring. The committee asked for funding to help cover the remaining \$50 needed to rent the room. The UUP name would be on the flier as a co-sponsor. Approved (2 abstentions).
2. The EAP Committee is hosting a Wellness Fair this spring. SEFCU donated funds so no funding is needed. Because no flu shots are being offered this year (demand for these has decreased and shots are readily available elsewhere) those funds are being used instead to offer professional development workshops. If anyone has suggestions for workshops, let Linda Gallagher or Marlene Williams know. An EC member raised a concern that many have had flu this year and hoped that in the future EAP would continue to offer flu shots. The concern will be shared with EAP.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion Item: Proposal for Funding Member-Driven Events

The EC and officers need to administer and guide what the chapter supports and has in the past given preference to events from existing chapter committees or that were sponsored by the EC. A handout with draft guidelines for how to manage upcoming requests was discussed. Suggestions included:

- when the request comes from a committee, that committee have a discussion to clarify the request and vote on the item
- items of less than 2 weeks' notice be discussed with officers prior to the EC meeting
- preference be given to member-driven events related to contract terms and conditions
- proposers indicate whether they have sought out other funding sources/sponsors

- a request form be created to capture all the relevant information in a uniform format. Agency fee funds must be used wisely in case something comes up toward the end of the year requiring that funding. Honoraria payments are agency fee and are strongly discouraged. We can approach statewide for events funding if there's a great, special speaker (they won't pay honoraria), but they will carefully consider what the chapter has done historically with agency fee funds before granting funding. The handout will be revised and expanded with these suggestions and provided at the next meeting.

B. Discussion Item: Chapter Website-Move to UUP Statewide Server

A concern with moving the website from the UAlbany server is that we would lose the searchability at the UAlbany site (eg minutes), however, the special collections library uses a program called "Archive It" which downloads old material so there would still be copies available. More information is being collected regarding how this would work with search engines. In addition, if we moved to the UUP server all new information would be on a different server with less and less information accessible on the UAlbany site. A concern related to not moving to the UUP server is that UUP is limited by what it can post on the UAlbany server potentially negatively impacting advocacy and politics. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

C. Update: Poverty Scholar Willie Baptist's Visit

The Willie Baptiste poverty advocacy talk is coming on the 3rd to the Standish Room. The EC was asked to fund lunch for all (could be 30 people) or at a minimum for the speaker and his staff. There was a concern that UUP could spend more than intended and a suggestion was made to restrict to 25 RSVP lunches. Others would still be welcome, but lunch would only be provided with the RSVP. Approved (1 abstention).

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Item: Advocacy Activities, Training and Outreach

Some have voiced a desire to have more information and training related to advocacy and outreach. How do members learn what their rights to advocate are and how far these extend? How do professionals take or make time for advocacy? Many are fearful of advocacy initially, not knowing what to do, when to do it or what they should be advocating for. A lack of communication could be keeping members from participating who would otherwise step up. The UBuffalo chapter has an advocacy group in the EC that connects with and helps newcomers grow in this area. We have a committee that encourages members to sign up to follow statewide issues that could organize a training session for all members (not just new ones) if members are interested.

The next general membership meeting will be on Wednesday, 3/27/13, 12-2pm.

Meeting adjourned 2pm.

Minutes submitted by J Harton.