

UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes March 10, 2010

Attendees: C. Merbler, C. Jewell, P. Abraham, R. See, M. Seidel, M. Knee, S. Kudzin, A. Olin, L. Wittner, G. Landsman, J. Collins, C. Bischoff, J. Gendron, G. Petry, P. Romain, J. Uppal, D. LaComb, B. Shadrack, F. Jaquez, T. Hoey, L. Bickmore, K. Thompson-LaPerle

The meeting commenced at 12:25 p.m.

- I. Waive approval of Executive Committee Meeting minutes from:
1/27/10 and 2/17/10: Collins moved, See seconded and the vote carried.

II. Reports

A. Officers

President Merbler had no written report. However, she did speak on the following topics:

1. Merbler will try to get a President's report out this Friday; she is swamped!
2. 3/18/10 is the Forum on Flexibility; thank you to Collins, Landsman, Wittner, Bickmore, Hoey, Benjamin. President Smith and Frank Mauro from the Fiscal Policy Institute will do presentations. Encourage your colleagues to attend; 5:30-7:30pm, with light refreshments for 50 people. Collins requests we each post 2 flyers (which he gave out).
3. General Membership meeting is hard to schedule with lack of room availability and travel schedules of officers. Waiting to hear from President Smith.
4. Advocacy Day yesterday. Met with Senator Kevin Parker (Brooklyn), NOT in favor of the flex bill
5. President Smith sent an email regarding the 3/23/10 Advocacy/Constituency Day, covers all constituency groups. Merbler urges as many as possible to attend! Arrange through Kelly's office (sign-up, send students' names gathered in class, etc. Merbler will send blast e-mail regarding this.
6. Last weekend, Merbler attended the UUP leadership workshop; several other Chapter members attended. Merbler pleased that some of our new folk went.
7. Knapp received the fruit basket we sent her. She is in rehab at least 8 weeks; Jewell will find out what rehab she is in and inform to Executive Committee.

8. UA Senate meeting, at which President Philip spoke on flex. Merbler: The bill is probably dead, but we can't give up yet.

Brief discussion on #4 and #5 (above); possible \$6.3-\$9 million cut on THIS campus; Wittner wrote an article for HNN and it was picked up by the Huffington Post and others, and has gotten some email responses from alumni; directed them to write to NYS legislators. Romain said the Chancellor cut EOP, \$2.3 million. Senator Parker is working on getting this back. Petry praised Wittner's article because he suggested solutions.

Merbler asked permission of the body to change the Order of Business; there were no objections.

B. Standing Committees

1. EAP-Bischoff: Nothing new to report, but upcoming events to announce:

3/16/10 Defensive Driving program, still space available;

Mid April, EAP's spring function, spring into Wellness fair;

Sustainability training available in April;

Webinar on Emotional Intelligence and Balancing, 3/18/10, 12-1, via GOER→through EAP website or www.nysbalance.ny.gov

2. **VP for Academics:** Absent

3. **VP for Professionals:** Abraham: Dealing with a denial of permanent appointment case. Brief discussion.

4. **Secretary:** Jewell: Working on catching up on minutes.

5. **Treasurer:** Olin: February report is attached. Merbler: We are saving thousands of dollars on printing costs as we can now use email. Olin: Good job-cutting costs on agency fee items. Olin explained the differences between the 9/10 budget request and the 10/11 anticipated budget request. Merbler asked about chapter release time support differences; Olin does not know the answer. Collins asked about the agency fee issue. Olin and Merbler gave brief explanations. Olin will bring more information to the next meeting; Wittner

recommended increasing the anticipatory agency fee to \$543.52 (See under New Business). Olin will work on this. Send email comments to her.

6. **PT Concerns Rep:** Absent

B. **Standing Committee Reports continued.**

2. **Solidarity:** Wittner spoke of Holiday Inn labor fiasco (he'd sent an email about this.), 3/10, 4-6 pm, major rally there, want union supporters out there. Petry may attend and take small banner with her.

3. **Peace & Justice:** Collins gave update on 2 events: 3/10, 7:30, film, "Why are we in Afghanistan?" in HU 132 and the flex forum, 3/18, 5:30-7:30, open to the public. Merbler: President Smith is THE person to answer questions; we should not have financial aid answer those. Collins: I will speak to Smith about this, because we have financial aid experts here. Collins spoke for Benjamin about gmail addresses for members: think about it.

C. **Ad Hoc Committees:** None

III. **Old Business:** None.

C. **New Business**

1. Romain proposed, w/funding, date, time, room TBA, in an appropriate amount of money, seconded by See, that a Department Representatives Meeting be funded. Brief discussion. Merbler would like to do one per semester. All officers and dept Reps would attend. The vote carries.
2. Chapter Budget, due 4/2/10. Brief discussion re: the report. Abraham moved, Romain seconded to approve the budget. Amended budget, per Wittner (earlier)=>\$21488.48; the vote carries.
3. Hoey moved to nominate Wittner for this year's Nina Mitchell award, using application from last year, with updates. Merbler: Okay. Collins seconded. Abraham about how Hoey and Collins and maybe someone else could work as a team on the nomination. Merbler: The form is in my office and on the

website. Hoey and Collins to send draft to Abraham, due 4/15/10, Merbler to help as needed. The minutes of this meeting need to accompany the application to prove we endorse it. Vote carries with unanimous support.

4. Romain thanked us for our support of Haitian relief. The fund is now up to \$60,000. Applause. Trying to support Haitian international student's scholarship. Send checks, made out to UAF; put student relief fund in memo; send to Romain. Or, online with credit cards on UA website. Nice receipt will be sent to you. Abraham thanked Romain. Applause. Romain: Thank you! Raffle, with TV, laptop and iPod as prizes.
5. Thank you to Merbler, applause. We appreciate your hard work!

Adjournment by acclamation, at 1:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H. Jewell,
Secretary