

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
UUP Albany Chapter  
March 31, 2014**

**Attendees:** B. Benjamin, E. Briere, C. Fox, L. Gallagher, J. Greiman, M. Grosshander, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, D. LaComb, M. Manjak, G. Petry, P. Romain, H. Scheck, M. Seidel, P. Stasi, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, R. Vives, E. Warnke, L. Wilder, L. Wittner, K. Thompson-LaPerle

**I. Minutes**

Minutes from the 2/24/14 meeting were moved by B Trachtenberg and seconded by T Hoey. With minor change all voted in favor with 5 abstentions.

**II. Review of Labor/Management Notes**

The last two meetings' notes were reviewed. There was discussion about phrasing agendas differently and requesting specific research as needed.

**III. Review General Membership Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2014**

The EC discussed waiting for the next general meeting to approve these minutes or approving them at the EC. There was a motion from C Jewell, second from P Stasi to post draft minutes and ask for comments, then formally raise the minutes for approval of the full membership at the next general meeting. All voted in favor.

**IV. Member concerns were solicited.**

President Jones has initiated a pilot program evaluating college deans. Management level evaluations were initiated years ago and Kermit Hall had started a 360° evaluation process, but this was not continued. Members have heard concerns from others that they are fearful responses to the evaluations may not be confidential. The university has assured faculty and staff responses will be confidential. At the last Labor Management meeting UUP asked if survey responses would be made public, but what would be released was unclear at the time. All were encouraged to take this request for input seriously, take the survey and encourage others to also respond.

Faculty Senate nominations and elections are coming up. All were encouraged to participate in governance at the university, stand for election, join Senate committees, vote and encourage others to participate. In this and other ways faculty and staff show their engagement and interest in participatory government.

Students are having computer issues on campus (e.g. trouble connecting, trouble staying connected in the library, trouble turning in assignments on time because of computer issues). Since UUP members are advocates for students, Benjamin will look into the situation further.

**V. New business**

- a) E Briere requested funding for the Departmental Representatives meeting 4/21/14 for a two-hour lunch meeting. P Romaine moved, R Vives seconded and all approved.

- b) J Harton requested funding for a Health and Safety Committee Ergonomics Workshop. T Hoey moved, G Petry seconded and all approved.
- c) There was a request to help fund UAlbany's Workforce Challenge, a 3.5 mile run/walk through downtown promoting teamwork, by purchasing event 50-60 T-shirts from team captain Cathy Probst in Athletics. UAlbany has had a team 14 years, but is not funding the event this year. Use of agency fee funds was discussed. A motion was made by P Romain, seconded by E Warnke to support the event with \$200 with the provision that UUP request that the T-shirts come from a sweatshop-free company and a request be made that UUP be recognized on the shirts as a sponsor. There were 2 abstentions, all others approved.
- d) There was a request for funding for the University Picnic. A motion was made by P Romain, seconded by P Stasi that a \$5/UUP attendee subsidy be provided. All voted in favor.
- e) There was a request for UUP to co-sponsor a film event with the film "Salud," about human public health in Cuba. The sponsorship is at no cost, merely our name and our help in distribution of materials. T Hoey moved, P Romain seconded. All voted in favor.
- f) UUP has used Staples in the past for office supplies, but Staples is now engaging in business practices UUP cannot support and Staples in requiring the use of a type of credit card that UUP rules prohibit. A motion was made by J Harton, seconded by C Jewell and approved by all to authorize R. See to open an account with another office supply company, such as WB Mason, that meets the statewide local guidelines. A second motion was made to authorize the treasurer to close the Staples account—L Wittner moved, J Greiman seconded, all voted in favor.
- g) Chapter assistant K Thompson-LaPerle recently opened a Gmail account, [uupalb@gmail.com](mailto:uupalb@gmail.com). The [uupalb@albanhy.edu](mailto:uupalb@albanhy.edu) email will forward to the new account. Each summer her summer hours must be authorized in addition to her semester hours. P Romain moved, C Jewell seconded and all approved that she be authorized to work up to 27 hours per week in summer with the provision to be checked that she is permitted by contract to work three 9-hour days per week (her preference for summer hours). With Secretary's Day coming before the next EC meeting it was moved by C Jewell, seconded by C Fox and approved by all that \$100 from today's Good & Welfare collection be given to her in appreciation for her work.
- h) L Gallagher invited all to participate in a Leukemia Society fundraiser and provided a flier.
- i) L Wittner shared labor concerns about Honest Weight Co-op. With its expansion last year it now employs twice the staff with many temporary workers without benefits. A union campaign was started on site, but in March management sent letters to staff about why joining unions was bad. There was no consultation with the membership regarding this union stance and there have been several other workers' concerns. L Wittner moved and B Trachtenberg seconded that UUP send a letter to Honest Weight management and its board with concerns about its antiunion campaign, stating that workers should make their own decision about union representation. All voted to approve.
- j) Statewide UUP award nominations were discussed. C Merbler was proposed for the Nina Mitchell Award and J Hanifan for the Favez Samuel Award for Part-Time Contingents. C Jewell moved, G Petry seconded, and all approved both. It was suggested a nomination letter come from I Steen.

- k) Recognition and kudos were given to D LaFond and R Friedman for their work in getting the Steve M Street Social Justice Project Award established at statewide. Submissions for this year's award are due 5/15. B Benjamin will send information out to all members.

## **VI. Officer reports (please see reports provided)**

The president stated there are two more full meetings this academic year (there will also be summer meetings). There should be time devoted at one of these meetings to discuss what we have done this year and what to do next year. A planning calendar should be developed to better coordinate UUP events. At the May meeting we might like more information and speakers on Education from the Inside Out for formerly incarcerated individuals and Pathways to Higher Education on prison justice issues. B Benjamin will share feedback from the General Membership meeting for discussion.

T Hoey and B Benjamin attended a statewide leadership retreat on faculty governance and collaboration with the university. UAlbany's governance leaders did not attend. It is common practice that university senates and UUP groups allow standing time for their presidents at the others' meetings. UUP might like to ask the senate president report on senate matters at EC meetings. All agreed that Benjamin should invite the current and incoming Senate Chairs from UAlbany to present at an upcoming meeting.

Benjamin noted that he had been in contact with the Chapter Presidents from the other University Centers, with the aim of setting up a meeting among the officers of these four chapters. The university centers have resources other chapters do not so we will look into collaborative opportunities with the other three centers. The leadership conference was excellent with detailed information on subjects like Taylor Law. Others were urged to attend the next time the workshop is offered.

B Trachtenberg shared information about the Tenure and Promotion event 4/1 and a supervisors' workshop on professional performance programs planned for 4/3. All were invited to attend.

All UUP elected members are eligible to get free UUP business cards and were encouraged to use these with their private email. These could be particularly helpful during legislative visits.

## **VII. Committee reports**

In the interest of time, committee reports were deferred.

Meeting adjourned 2pm.

Minutes submitted by J Harton.