

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
April 24, 2014

Attendees: P. Abraham, B. Benjamin, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, M. Knee, D. LaComb, G. Landsman, G. Petry, P. Pinho, L. Pyles, P. Romain, H. Scheck, M. Seidel, I. Steen, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, E. Warnke, L. Wilder, K. Thompson-LaPerle

I. Minutes

Minutes from the 3/31/14 meeting were moved by B Trachtenberg and seconded by T Hoey and approved with no changes .

II. Review Labor Management Notes 4/22/14

Notes were not yet available.

III. Senate Vice Chair Elections

The senate will be electing its officers shortly. Cynthia Fox was thanked for running for vice-chair. Benjamin plans to build stronger relationships with the senate in the future to help bolster faculty voices heard and to work on shared governance issues together.

IV. Nominations for Awards

P Romain moved, T Hoey seconded and all approved nominating I Steen as outstanding retiree awardee for his 30 years of excellent UUP service, leadership and legislative advocacy. A letter of endorsement for the award will be written and submitted.

The Steve Street Award for undergraduate students working on social justice issues needs nominees. **B Benjamin will send information out.**

V. Delegate Assembly Planning

Elections will take place at next weekend's DA. P Abraham is running for VP for Professionals. T Hoey is considering running for an Executive Board seat. The professional delegation is full, but an academic is still needed. DA committee attendees should take note of important issues for discussion at the next EC. B Shadrick will work on preparing a scholarship raffle basket from UAlbany. Only one graduate and one undergraduate scholarship application came from UAlbany. **B Benjamin work in future years to solicit more names for the UUP scholarship.**

VI. Honest Weight Food Co-op Letter

The chapter sent a letter to Honest Weight outlining its concerns regarding labor issues and its solidarity with Honest Weight staff and received a letter in return.

VII. Chapter Planning

The chapter reviewed the year's events and accomplishments and discussed what went well and what needs improvement. The EC suggested next year we hold another general members BBQ, tailgate event, invite President Jones to visit the EC again, and continue

advocacy days. Clear communications, engaged committees, that there were many tangible, useful products and the newsletter were applauded.

There continue to be concerns related to: academic freedom, non-renewals and tenure decisions based on student evaluations (a task force had recommended SIRS scores not be used as the sole evaluation for faculty since results are not valid used alone, response rates are very low, high scores are held against instructors suggesting there was pandering to students, etc.), and **the UUP website is looking better, but over summer some time should be spent developing it** (including a simple, visual calendar, lobbying information/dates, DAs, etc. so we can direct people to the website and calendar for information and then include the website on all communications).

For the coming year's calendar the group discussed:

- getting surveys completed early in the semester and preparing white papers early with the results so the information can be publicized and used quickly and productively
- scheduling department representative meetings early each semester, providing useful, current bulletin board materials and strong leadership
- posting newsletter deadlines early and on the website, having a newsletter available when all return from summer break and having issues-oriented volumes
- setting committees by the end of September (should be open broadly to all units and actively soliciting input)—a call to set up committee memberships can be sent when the semester begins (**Benjamin and Trachtenberg will investigate whether appointments must be made annually or if members can stay on committees via poll**)
- having all proposals for events/funding submitted early to facilitate allocations
- planning for at least 2 UUP workshops per semester and spreading workshops throughout the semester
- holding a candidates' forum at the spring general membership meeting
- mapping out election year deadlines early (nominations, ballots, newsletter, statements, forum, election, etc.)—**a clear set of election guidelines/procedures should be drafted by early September for the EC's review and finalized in October**
- all agreed that having the calendar mapped out a year ahead would be helpful.

General Membership **survey results are forthcoming.**

VIII. Officer Reports

Reports were provided prior to the meeting. The floor was open for questions.

With more full-time faculty lecturers and no guidelines for their hiring and renewal, the part-time guidelines should be revised to include them. B Hedberg is considering it.

There are unused campus grant funds. Most grants are funded 60/40 (Joint Labor Management/camps), but the requirement for matching campus funds could be waived for certain kinds of mentoring projects. Collaborating with other schools should be considered. Grants don't all need to be for UUP events—funds may support appropriate

campus events (eg: recent Ukraine Crisis Forum). Benjamin will ask committees to identify some projects.

Last fall all committees were asked to submit survey questions. Benjamin said in consultation with experts in quantitative research he was told a huge survey was too much, so the questions were split into smaller sets. The Women's Concerns Committee had already begun developing a survey, which it is now ready to be sent, hopefully at the end of the semester. Similarly the Contingent Concerns Committee has a survey almost ready. The surveys will be vetted once more with an analytics person to be sure there are no questions. There are also good, broad surveys for academics and professionals which should be ready by the beginning of the fall semester. Surveys will be sent at different times to not overburden respondents.

A UUP retreat was suggested to discuss future directions and assist in in-depth planning.

IX. Other

- K Thompson-LaPerle was thanked for all her work. Yesterday, for National Secretaries Day, she received the monetary gift the EC provided at the last meeting.
- A Campaign for the Future of Higher Education Conference will be at the Desmond on commencement weekend. Any interested in attending should contact B Benjamin.
- The CNSE merger with SUNY-IT, affirmed by the Board of Trustees, is on target for 1/15/15. Students will have access to the library and gym and some housing, but otherwise it will be a clean break with UAlbany. Atmospheric Science space in CNSE must be given up; they will move to ETEC once it is built. CNSE space on campus will revert back to UAlbany. CNSE has about 70 UUP members and 3000 RF employees. It is unclear how this will work for CNSE UUP faculty or which HR office they report to. SUNY-IT UUP members are also concerned.
- A database is being built to allow us to query email addresses and link the spreadsheet we get from the university to make it easier to identify members.
- Some disability concerns related to the new construction have been conveyed to management. The campus will provide accessible pathways and doors. Concerns (including the new bus stop at Social Sciences without a handicap accessible door) will be formally shared in the May LM meeting.
- There was discussion about holding the EC meeting 2 times in summer instead of 3.

Meeting adjourned 2pm. The next EC meeting will be 5/19/14 12-2pm.

Minutes submitted by J Harton.