

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
May 11, 2015**

Attendees:

P. Abraham, B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, E. Briere, J. Collins, R. Friedman, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, M. Knee, D. LaFond, G. Petry, B. Pyszczymuka, P. Romain, H. Scheck, M. Seidel, I. Steen, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, R. Vives, L. Wilder, L. Wittner, R. Tolley, K. Thompson-LaPerle

I. Minutes

The meeting minutes from 4/13/15 without changes were moved by T Hoey, seconded by E Briere and approved by all (with 4 abstentions).

II. Labor Management Notes

No LM meeting was held in April.

III. Summer Schedule

Dates were discussed for summer EC meetings (6/10/15 and 8/31/15) with meeting locations TBD. All agreed not to schedule a July meeting, but to keep the possibility open of calling an emergency meeting if needed. Since the dining halls are closed there was discussion about where to gather. T Hoey moved, R Vives seconded, and all agreed that the EC order pizza and wings for the next meeting. B Benjamin will send a confirmation email with the summer dates.

IV. Officers Reports

- B Benjamin lauded the Senate amendment victory restricting votes from members from administration. Many good people were voted onto Senate, including J Collins who was elected as the new Senate Vice Chair (which means he will be Chair the following year). The current leadership have a strong commitment to values shared by UUP, reminding people of their rights and where they need to stand up and speak. We want a dynamic Senate like we've made a dynamic union. The prospect of UUP and Governance working together as a united faculty voice is a welcome one.
- Contingent issues continue to move forward, R Tolley and B Benjamin presented the Contingent Survey information to the University contingents panel. M Earleywine has been helpful with cross-tabulating data to better identify part-time and full-time concerns. Contingents did a great job at the May Day event, screened the film *Con Job*, and have been very active. Our proposals and UAlbany's proposals are broadly in alignment, which is very positive. B Benjamin plans to get a final draft to the EC this summer, get substantive feedback and have a full report ready by the beginning of the fall semester so that recommendations can be implemented.
- R Vives reiterated that the UUP presentation to the university's contingents panel went well. The panelists have been asked to continue on for the next year to help implement recommendations which include moving toward a \$5K minimum per course rate and setting up a program that all instructors/part-timers should have eligibility for basic health benefits. Other recommendations include improved evaluations, longer contracts and pathways to permanency. J Collins suggested that the Senate might host a contingents forum (last done over 10 years ago). There is much work to be done. The panel also looked at things called for 5 years ago by Middle States. Having the UUP contingents report completed late summer/early fall, about the same time as the panel report, could help set the context for discussion. Contingent faculty are unionizing at local colleges with SEIU Local 200's help. Those at St Rose just got their first contract, the union has been accepted at SCCC and Siena workers will vote on unionizing soon.
- T Hoey encouraged working with AFL CIO (L Wittner is secretary for the local labor council). 911 workers have been without a contract for 5 years. They testified last week with numbers showing that they've saved \$500K for the city. School crossing guards union formed a union and are negotiating.

- B Trachtenberg stated there seem to be quite a few member issues this spring, which reemphasizes the need for an ombudsperson. Making tenure/promotion procedures more uniform would make it easier on the ombudsperson. Faculty jobs are increasingly measured and evaluated on the ability to produce wealth. Faculty are supposed to generate wealth and redo academic programs to attract more self-funded students. One department is considering reframing tracks away from current areas and making them pre-professional tracks, thinking about outcomes. The Academic Concerns Committee is considering the impact of corporatization on the professoriate. A reading group is being formed to help inform them, then they plan to hold forums over the next year to inform faculty about mandated programs, their pitfalls, weaknesses and logical breaks, and end the year with a large lecture on the topic. The committee will come to the EC next year to request funding for speakers. There was general affirmation to move forward on this. The university has pushed more to be entrepreneurial, but in the case of Nano, while it got much funding, it has very few students. If SUNY Excels goes through one marker is income students make after graduation. Since the tax giveaway of Startup NY in spring 2013, there have been 76 jobs created. The state is spending \$53M on advertising alone (colleagues across the US report seeing the ads). The comptroller is investigating the use of commercials (like paid commercials for Cuomo).

V. Chapter President Release Time

B Benjamin's application for release time is due in June for renewal. He receives 50% release time. UAlbany pays 50% and UUP pays 50% (the chapter pays 10% of the UUP amount). T Hoey moved, G Petry seconded and all approved that the EC approve the chapter release time application of President Bret Benjamin, and agree that the chapter will pay for 10% of the release time costs.

VI. Chapter Assistant Appointment

Under the contract chapter assistants have a 25-hour work limit. Larger chapters require more time. To work more than 25 hours a formal request must be filed. K Thompson-LaPerle has always worked 30 hours. The chapter was supposed to file in the past, but was not aware. P Romain moved, P Abraham seconded and all approved to extend the chapter assistant's appointment from 25 to 30 hours retroactively for the period of Jan 1 to June 1, 2015 and for next fall for the period of Sept 1 through Dec 31, 2015.

VII. Statewide Standing Committee Requests

B Benjamin asked for reconfirmation of those wanting to continue to participate on statewide standing committees (not ad hoc). He asked that any others who would like to participate let him know.

VIII. Membership Committee Requests

B Benjamin postponed discussion on this item. He will email lists to departments that have no department representative. Ideally every department would have at least 1 representative (2 would be better) and a contingent representative.

IX. Special Order of Business

B Benjamin thanked all for the work that's been done this year. Three current officers are stepping down, E Briere, R Vives, E Warnke and were thanked for all their efforts. D LaComb, L Bickmore and I Steen who have devoted much time to UUP are stepping down from the EC due to other commitments. B Benjamin also thanked continuing and new officers and EC members and all gave kudos to B Benjamin for all his work.

M Seidel was congratulated on her recent marriage.

X. Other Business

The MCs who hadn't gotten a raise in over five years got their first 2 % and will get a second raise in July.

T Hoey, M Seidel, B Trachtenberg and B Benjamin had lunch with N Richardson, the NYSUT organizer assigned to UUP. She is to organize 29 campuses all over the state. She's in Albany and interested in helping us build our political outreach materials, grow our internal organizing of members, increase to a more active membership. She is a good resource.

Meeting adjourned 2pm. Minutes submitted by J Harton.