

UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2012

Attendees: P. Abraham, B. Benjamin, L. Bickmore, E. Briere, J. Collins, C. Fox, R. Friedman, J. Gendron, M. Grosshandler, J. Hanifan, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, S. Knapp, S. Kudzin, D. LaComb, D. LaFond, G. Landsman, D. Lewis, M. Manjak, C. Merbler, A. Olin, G. Petry, B. Pyszcymuka, P. Romain, M. Seidel, K. Sprague, P. Stasi, I. Steen, E. Torgersen, B. Trachtenberg, B. Weaver, L. Wittner, B. Ziman, K. Thompson-LaPerle

The meeting commenced at 12:26 pm.

- I. Approval of minutes from the April 18, 2012 Executive Committee meeting. Steen moved, Abraham seconded. Benjamin asked that under Collin' report, add an "and" after Campus Center. Vote on minutes as amended passes, with 2 abstentions. Waive approval of minutes from October 19, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting. Abraham moved, Barry T. seconded. Discussion. Vote passes.
- II. Special order of business: Barry asked Eloise to leave the room. Three resolutions are being distributed acknowledging the contributions of French faculty. Barry read the first resolution aloud; the other two are similar except for name changes. Moved and seconded. Merbler made a few changes. These will be printed on parchment, to be presented at a later date and included in the newsletter. Collins spoke in favor of the resolutions. Landsman spoke in favor of publicizing these. Add an "s" to cultures in 6th paragraph of first resolution. Vote carries for all three resolutions.

III. REPORTS

A. OFFICERS

1. **PRESIDENT:** MERBLER WENT OVER HER REPORT

- Thank you for all your hard work over the past year.
- Send me your names for requested statewide committees. Hoey said people should not reply to the list. Jewell and Hanifan liked getting the information. Merbler said others did not. Hanifan and David, please see Merbler before the meeting ends. Both indicated that they wish to stay on. It is a Presidential recommendation to Statewide; Statewide makes the decisions. LaFond was told the Committee Chair makes the decision. Merbler said that only happens mid-year. Abraham added further explanation to the annual decisions.
- On July 11, 2012, we were evicted from CC 375, so we will need to find a different location.

- Hoey announced that the fall 2012 DA will be in BUFFALO, at the Hyatt. This is unofficial, has not been announced statewide yet, according to Abraham.
- Merbler wants permission from the group to recognize Romain's impending marriage on 5/19/2012, with a \$50 gift card to Macy's; it carries.
- This Chapter has the ability to appoint a Secretary. Discussion. We need to fill the position; we have a 6/13 meeting. Benjamin volunteers to be Secretary for the June meeting, but cannot be at every Wednesday meeting. He suggests Merbler send around an interest query. Many members spoke at the same time!

2. **VP for Academics:** Collins expanded on the items in his written report:

- We continue to take issues to Labor/Management.
- We continue to follow-up with other issues, to Labor/Management.
- School of Education discussion on restructuring is starting. Not sure if it is a Labor/Management issue yet. Brief discussion.
- Workload increases for some languages faculty.
- Collins said the Forum was good, but lightly attended.
- The May Day event in Lafayette Park was quite good; some UUP members attended.
- University in the City event was very interesting; 3 different events with differing audiences, well-attended.
- Benjamin said that people interested in the lecture series, University in the City, should contact him.

3. **VP for Professionals:** Abraham:

- Doing outreach legislatively. Yesterday attended with Manjak. Encourages others to go. Merbler said the only other scheduled day is Committee of 100. Abraham will let us know if any new dates are announced. Discussion about members signing up online, but not getting replies from Statewide. Abraham will look into it.
- The April workshop ended up giving me a lot of work! Thank you to Greta!
- June 12 there will be Joint Labor/Management training on campus. More details to come.

4. **Secretary:** No report. Merbler: This is your last meeting as Secretary, thank you for everything, applause, standing ovation. Manjak mentioned Jewell's contributions to the newsletter this year; more applause.

5. **Treasurer:** Olin: the report is in your packet. Our balance is just over \$14,000 and we should get a check from UUP Central next week, bringing us up over \$20,000 again, although this is not "the big one." Expenses for April are on the reverse.

6. **Contingents:** Hanifan: Nothing formal. Thank you.

B. Standing Committees

—Solidarity:

- Wittner thanked members for participating in the May Day event.
- The Desmond situation has resulted in the next DA being held in Buffalo.
- Video on Romney and Obama described; Wittner will send the link. However, it is election-linked, so Merbler said to send it to members' private email addresses ONLY. Email larrywittner@gmail.com

---**Health & Safety:** Harton said to keep comments and concerns coming to her; she also spoke of things that have been fixed. Any movement on the smoking issue? Merbler: Not an L/M issue. ULC is discussing it and populating a Taskforce. Merbler: If you notice things, take photos, send to Harton/Merbler/Jewell...things can get fixed right away.

LaFond asked if we should have our own video equipment. Merbler: No. Technology changes too often, people should use their own equipment or borrow from the library. Discussion.

---**Peace & Justice:** Friedman: vacation schedule problem discussed. There is a UPPC meeting this Friday at 3 pm in UNH 107, open meeting. Discussion. Hanifan isn't sure this is a justice issue, but, rather, a labor issue. Another member said this is about childcare and financial burdens. More discussion. Landsman said this is a family/workplace issue which needs to be discussed, but maybe not via this Ad Hoc Committee. Friedman said he merely wanted a venue to discuss the issue. Hanifan pointed out family issues with contingents who are, for instance, on food stamps. Every member's issues are real; I apologize if I offended anyone. More discussion. Petry is glad we have a forum for discussing issues like this. Landsman suggests asking Management to consider how changes like this affect our membership and to ask us first. LaFond thinks Affirmative Action committee should look at this; women's concerns committee has discussed this in the past. Merbler: This is a Governance, Senate issue, which I think everyone needs to get on board with. Management knows what this change did. Hoey thinks it is a term and condition of employment. Olin asked if we should also discuss the campus shutdown, and the fact that professionals are affected differently than academics. Seidel made some remarks; Management gets to decide when classes will be, if we can show that this impacts our members, we have to bargain on those issues. It is still possible to raise non-negotiable subjects, but Management does not have to bargain on these. It is a Governance issue! Management cannot make us stay home and charge our time. David: many academics don't know how these issues affect professionals; it would be great if there was a fact sheet on

this. Collins suggests that anyone who goes to the Friday meeting, write something up for the newsletter.

--**Newsletter Committee:** Collins: let's table the discussion of the printing of newsletter until the 13th. Applaudes for the newsletter, applause.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

--(Romain) Affirmative Action committee to meet soon. More applause for Romain.

IV. Old Business

1. G&W guidelines: Merbler read from some of her notes. She will send these in written form to us in time for the next meeting.

V. New Business

1. Printing of Chapter Newsletters: tabled until next meeting.

VI. 2. Chapter Assistant Summer Hours: Merbler proposes that we continue as we have in the past, 20 hours a week, Monday-Thursday. Abraham moved, Collins seconded, vote carries.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H. Jewell,
Secretary