

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
UUP Albany Chapter
June 4, 2013

Attendees: L. Bickmore, P. Breiner, J. Collins, M. Earleywine, R. Friedman, L. Gallagher, J. Gendron, M. Grosshandler, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, J. Jurkowski, M. Knee, D. LaFond, G. Landsman, R. McGlaufflin, G. Petry, P. Pinho, R. See, M. Seidel, K. Sprague, I. Steen, B. Sutton, E. Torgersen, E. Warnke, L. Wittner, B. Ziman, & K. Thompson-LaPerle

I. **MINUTES**-Approval of 5/8/13 minutes was deferred to the next meeting (passed, one abstention).

II. **REPORTS**

A. **Officers**

1. **President**-Tom Hoey (VP for Professionals) reported in Bret Benjamin's absence, welcoming everyone to the new Executive Committee (EC) Board and reiterating that all were elected as delegates or alternates (depending on the number of votes received) and that we will all work together within the UAlbany and state bylaws. As a quick summary, he shared there are 35,000 UUP members statewide, 1700 from UAlbany. There are 3 Delegate Assemblies (DAs, i.e., conventions—fall, winter, spring) at which delegates from each campus conduct union business (the DA is the union's policy making body). Chapters are permitted a specific number of delegates (UAlbany is allotted 13 academic and 12 professional). Those with the greatest number of election votes attend as delegates. If those with the greatest number of votes cannot attend, those with the next highest votes (alternates) serve as delegates. Anyone on the EC Board may attend a DA as an observer.

There will be a rally starting at noon Saturday 6/8/13. All were encouraged to participate, wear red and UUP logos, and get others to attend. NYSUT's 500,000 members are asking for our help. NYSUT has 200 busses bringing people in from other parts of the state. We need to show UAlbany's UUP is involved and active, particularly since the event is in our city. Union powers are in numbers. If nobody fights, things won't get better. Chapter members will meet at the hospitality tent on the capital lawn on the plaza. Maureen Seidel will be there. Tom will have the chapter banner. Because Art on Lark is also this weekend parking may be difficult, but public transportation is good and UAlbany employees can use their ID cards as a free bus pass. Tom will send an email with more information.

Congratulations were extended to: Betty Shadrick who won an Educational Leadership Award from Kappa Alpha Psi, Larry Wittner on the release of his new book, U Aardvark, a fiction that addresses today's concerns in education, and Roberto Vives who was recently featured in a Times Union write-up. Thanks were given to Eric Warnke and Rob See for their work on the bylaws and adding two new leadership positions (Asst VP for Professionals and Asst VP for Academics) that should help ensure chapter business moves forward efficiently.

2. **Vice President for Academics**-Barry Trachtenberg was unable to attend, but in his report he cited concerns with MOOCs and online education stating we need to strengthen campus governance. UUP will be meeting with the Senate (Jim Collins met with Senate officers regarding conflicts with the union contract and they agreed to amend their charter). Coursera education has the potential to enroll hundreds of students in courses and without union

attention, administration could claim the Senate gave its approval. The provost and CIO presented to the campus in January on online courses, but a task force had already met and made decisions before that. The union learned of this late. UUP is concerned about a variety of matters including job security, tenure matters, potential contingent abuse, impact on faculty of low enrolled courses where students choose to take these courses online from other institutions. Union members who are very knowledgeable about these issues should be participating in such discussions early on.

3. **Vice President for Professionals**-Tom Hoey has invited new UUP statewide president, Fred Kowal to attend EC meetings. Professionals voiced concerns that while faculty are getting milestone recognition (tenure, 25 years, etc.) professionals are not. In Labor/Management discussions it was decided that professionals will also get recognitions at certain milestone and all employees will be included in the future in twice yearly recognitions.
 4. **Secretary**-Janna Harton had no news.
 5. **Treasurer**-Barry Trachtenberg's report was in the pre-meeting packet.
 6. **Contingent Faculty**-Roberto Vives sent regrets—as a coach he was attending an out-of-state track meet.
- B. **Standing Committees** – no reports. The EC was asked to indicate which committees they'd like to participate in this coming year and also encouraged to participate on statewide committees. All UAlbany UUP members will be invited by email to participate in committees as per the bylaws.
- C. **Ad Hoc Committees** – no reports. Several ad hoc committees were proposed, discussed and passed (below). A list of all committees will be generated and shared with all union members. All members are invited to join the committees.
- **Professionals Concerns.** A successful Academics Concerns committee was created last year. Professionals have different needs that may best be addressed here. This mirrors the statewide UUP Professional Concerns Committee.
 - **Technology Issues and Concerns.** With many IT-related changes coming, including shared services, centralized SUNY data centers, new on-call provisions, this committee is important. The committee would also provide workshops for discussion of IT issues.
 - **Women's Concerns.** There was discussion to combine this with Affirmative Action, but at the state level they are separate. EC voted to keep them separate. A suggestion was made to invite other unions' women's concerns committees to collaborate and add strength.
 - **General Meetings/Events.** To assist in prep, set-up and clean-up for larger meetings.
 - **Elections.** See Old Business below.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. The formation of an Elections ad hoc committee was approved in the previous EC meeting and action deferred to this meeting. The committee is to review elections and produce a report for the next budget cycle.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve incoming chapter president Bret Benjamin's request for 50% release time for the 2013-14 academic year. Tom Hoey shared that Bret Benjamin submitted a detailed proposal identifying how the release time will be spent. Paid release time relieves a president from part of his regular professional obligations to ensure

sufficient time is devoted to the administrative work of the union. UUP would pay 50% of the salary plus fringe and the Albany Chapter would be responsible for 10% of that.

- B. Sign-up sheets and standing committee descriptions were distributed. Much of the union's work takes place in its committees. Everyone was asked to indicate their committee preferences and to provide an off campus email for union business. Everyone will get an e copy of meeting documents (Kelly will provide paper copies for anyone needing it) to limit the length of reports at meetings and allow deeper discussion of union business, as well as to save paper.
- C. The governor's proposal for 10-year tax free zones for new businesses on campuses was discussed. CSEA has made a statement and UUP's new president stated this will be a priority concern. There is serious potential impact, both positive and negative. Nano (originally UAlbany, but now a separate entity) and its director Alain Kaloyeros (now the governors' special advisor on this matter), stand to benefit without UAlbany. It was suggested that UUP have clear counterarguments to media and public attacks that unions thwart economic growth. UUP should be able to show how it is pro-economic growth, how it supports local businesses that have been struggling and are going to be hurt, that small start-ups are unlikely to benefit like existing major corporations, and ask questions like what happens if companies use the tax free status for 10 years but then move away. UUP needs to identify and work with community allies to best benefit everyone. The mission of the university is education, not creating economic development. Funds given to SUNY schools have had a multiplier effect on the economy and appear sustainable. Members were asked to consider what we can do sustainably for economic development without compromising educational goals and were asked to review and provide relevant data—some faculty and staff may already be researching these areas or know others who are. Can we show there is no evidence that subsidies for corporate welfare creation of jobs have led to job creation, that there is no accountability for much of this since it has not been tracked by the state? Instead of merely opposing proposals, UUP should provide alternative proposals with a greater education orientation. UUP should offer workshops with information, run discussion groups on the statewide listserv (one is already set up—Rob See will send the URL), write in the media.

Meeting adjourned 1:40pm. Minutes submitted by J Harton.

Fall EC meetings: 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/12.

Fall general membership meeting (all union members invited): 10/24 at 12-2pm, CC Ballroom.
(addendum: this has now been revised. The GM meeting will be a BBQ on Tues 9/17 from 12-2)

For more information about UUP, visit www.albany.edu/uup.