

**UUP Albany Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2011**

Attendees: L. Bickmore, J. Collins, S. D'Alessandro, C. Fox, J. Gendron, J. Harton, T. Hoey, C. Jewell, S. Knapp, S. Kudzin, M. Manjak, C. Merbler, A. Olin, G. Petry, C. Quin, M. Seidel, B. Shadrack, P. Stasi, I. Steen, B. Trachtenberg, L. Wittner, W. Ziman, E. Briere, G. Landsman, R. Friedman, D. LaFond, B. Benjamin, J. Hanifan, P. Abraham, K. Thompson-LaPerle

The meeting commenced at 12:20p.m.

I. Approval of minutes from the September 7, 2011 Executive Committee meeting: Collins moved, Petry seconded. Harton's name is spelled with 2 Ns. The vote carries with 1 abstention.

I. Reports

A. Officers

1. President Merbler went over her report:

1. Thank you all for your work at the DA. Personal reactions? Contingents' amendments passed. Harton: Overwhelming. So many people and places to go. Harton went as an observer. Thank you all for supporting Abraham.
2. Applause for the Newsletter team who did a wonderful job with their first issue.
3. Chapter Office will be closed next week while Kelly is on vacation.
4. Discussion about assistance with General Membership mailing. Hoey and others to help. LaFond asked about slideshows; Merbler indicated slides were not to be used publicly. Merbler will also speak to Dangler. More discussion.
5. RE: IDAs: Accounts statewide were swept, so there will be a mini-IDA round, far less money than we usually get. Money must be expended by 3/31/12 according to early information.
6. Merbler spoke on donations to local efforts at the campus. Thank you for toiletry donations at the DA.
7. Regarding the PEF contract, it is a mixed bag. At UA, we have 7 PEF employees. If you hear anything about them, let us know.

ADD-ONS

1. CC 375 for special Executive Committee meeting, 10/12/11, to discuss deactivations. Hoey: please write Floss. Jewell: I will be out that day; someone else will have to take minutes. Landsman: Invited people affected? Merbler: I don't know. Merbler to Hoey: What was your original intent? Discussion. Brown bag. Seidel: Why

invite Floss? Hoey: So he can hear our situation, not to ask for his input. Similar actions taken at other campuses. Seidel: make clear to Floss on what we're looking for him to do. Hoey, "a listening tour." Merbler: Chapter Officers have met with affected members several times. Briere thinks it would be reassuring to them to see whole Executive Committee working on this issue. Merbler: We will make those invitations. More discussion. Manjak and Hoey asked if Administrators have a "play book." Hoey and Abraham discussed resolutions which Statewide Executive Board is to vote on. LaFond, Collins, and Hanifan also commented on this issue.

2. Merbler: Regarding lunches: Kelly gets tickets based on your responses. There are 7 people here today who didn't sign up. Please RSVP. Tickets go to Statewide for the audit.
3. There was a motion to change the Order of Business. The vote carries.

(5) Treasurer's report—Olin: Attached, includes cumulative numbers for entire year. Finance Committee considering changes to expense policy; delegates to get this soon. They also want all invoices paid within 30 days; difficult because we only get billed for luncheons twice a year. Applause for Olin in audit; balanced to the penny.

2. 1. **VP Academics:** Collins sent an outline and expounded on it today. Labor/Management ideas? Briere asked if Collins was happy with "old cuts" response. Attrition, mostly, was the response. Abraham said this was a workload increase for professionals. Hanifan referred to a "laundry list" of cuts from last year; Elga has cuts still to come, possibly, in her "backpack." Discussion. LaFond has heard that members are "being invited to leave," etc. What can we tell people? Abraham: Tell Petry and me, and Seidel; don't delay! Email or phone calls. Merbler: We advise members, but don't take any action without their permission. Abraham needs complete examples. Bret: question of reappointing people into different departments. Also, what is the O'Leary memo? Also, we need to keep our finger on the NYSUNY2020 agenda and privatization. Steen, our historian, explained, "O'Leary 'memo (he knew workload is a mandatory subject of negotiation) but he did a "survey" on campus anyway. The Union never accepted the O'Leary memo; it is NOT real. It has no force. Merbler to take under advisement, with Collins and Steen to send blast email saying O'Leary memo holds no weight. Applause for Merbler. Collins, et al., to press Floss for communication mechanism across SUNY

campuses. See The Voice for other info. Upcoming events announced (see his report.).

3. **Vice President for Professionals:** Abraham sent report, and expanded on it. Thank you for your support of me at the DA.
4. **Secretary:** Jewell: The minutes are up to date Thank you.
5. **Treasurer:** Olin: report given, above.
6. **Part Time Concerns:** Hanifan: She applauded us for our support of contingents. She is getting emails from around the State. Tearfully important, proud of you all. I apologize to the Chapter for only spending time on Statewide Part-time issues. I return now to Chapter duties as Part-time Concerns Representative. Hanifan to send a press release to Merbler. Hanifan would like, for the future, to have deadline for the newsletter be before the DA. Merbler: Okay. Discussion about the word “contingent,” and related issues, including Chapter bylaws. Hanifan read an email from Landy. Harton, for Manjak, read a resolution on Hanifan’s efforts (applause), to wit: Resolved that the Albany Chapter of UUP express its appreciation for the efforts of J. Hanifan on the part of contingent members, and in particular her work on developing and successfully promoting the amendments to the UUP Constitution that afford contingent staff greater representation in our Union.

B. Standing Committees

1. **Solidarity:** Wittner: PEF situation; Governor can decide NOT to fire PEF employees. We should support them if they are fired. Wittner to send updates to the Listserv. The Albany County Federation of Labor Council has 3 new volunteers, to start in spring: Hoey, Benjamin, and Lewis. Move that Merbler send a letter to the Labor Council naming them; seconded by Collins; the vote carries unanimously. We may be able to get more delegates; see Wittner for info for next newsletter.
2. **Disabilities Rights and Concerns:** Jewell: Report is attached. Collins suggests sending request for help to members via The Forum. Hoey asked about Parking Committee, parking issues, etc. LaFond asked about raising money on campus for scholarship. LaFond and Jewell to discuss.
3. **Grievance:** Seidel for Petry: 8 cases. Petry’s grievance was won, applause. When you stand up with proper support, you can win.
4. **Health & Safety:** Harton: If you see people smoking near air intake areas, tell them to stop. Discussion. Hoey talked about spray paint near bench vents. Abraham: Vents’ location is a State secret; otherwise we would be vulnerable to attack. Merbler to bring this issue to ULC and Labor/Management (again) and ask Management to send policy to University Community. We need education and enforcement of smoking

policies. Discussion. Quin: ULC has considered banning smoking on campus. Recommendation to enforce current policy, rather than becoming a smokeless campus. Abraham: Alfred is now no-smoking; enrollment dropped by 200 students. Same fear at UA. Applause for Harton and Committee.

5. **Peace & Justice:** Friedman: There will be a speaker on 10/24/11, at 4 pm, in CC 375; more details forthcoming. Need \$ for travel, room, etc. Wants publicity to whole community: approved flyers, blast email from Merbler, "UA Today" blurb email; train=\$110, @\$15 publicity. Friedman moved, Bickmore seconded, vote carries.

6. **Affirmative Action:** LaFond asked Abraham for more information. Romain is the Chair. Jewell to ask Abraham what the "4 questions" are. Discussion. Merbler to reach out to Romain to get a Committee meeting together.

C. **Ad Hoc Committees:** None

III. **Old Business:** None.

IV. **New Business**

1. Merbler gave background on G&W fund guidelines, \$ or Chapter awards, sympathy cards/flowers, Chapter basket. It now has a life Merbler is not comfortable with. Right now, we are behind, in funds. We need to be smarter about this. Discussion. Please give a little more, if you can. Abraham suggested giving alternately to G&W and to a disasters fund. Gendron thinks G&W should go back to its original intent. Tabled until next meeting.

2. Possible Funding for Peace & Justice Talk Scheduled for Mon., 10/24/11 in CC 375: Done.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H. Jewell,
Secretary