

MINUTES

UUP Binghamton Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, March 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Uuw 324

Present: S. Atav, H. DeHaan, F. Goldman, J. Goldman, B. Kilmarx, D. Kunkel, S. Michael, J. Oldfield, N. Pages, R. Pompei, B. Roth, S. Seibold-Simpson, D. Stone, M. Zinkin

Guests: D. Wood, Labor Relations Specialist, N. Richardson, NYSUT, S. Miranda, L. Rhoads, E. Thornley

Meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m. President Benita Roth welcomed Executive Board members and guests to the March meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Susan Seibold-Simpson **MOVED TO APPROVE** the February 11, 2015, Executive Board Minutes. **SECONDED** by Donald Kunkel. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**

2. Passing the Hat for the Sunshine Fund:

President Roth announced the passing of the hat for the Sunshine Fund and asked that Executive Board members give if they can. \$23.00 was collected at the March meeting.

3. Guest Nicki Richardson, a New NYSUT Staff Member, Was Introduced:

Nicki explained to Executive Board members and guests that she is working in a newly created position housed in the legislation and political department of NYSUT, which deals with higher education and is charged with increasing active members and member participation in activism. She is working closely with leadership in UUP. Nicki lives in Albany and originally worked in the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union (HERE) as a Labor Relations Specialist. She has worked with University Food Services at Binghamton in the past and is thrilled to be back here on campus. Benita asked if anyone had questions for Nicki. There were none.

4. Report of the Vice President, Academics:

Vice President for Academics, Heather DeHaan had nothing to report.

5. Report of the Vice President, Professionals:

Vice President for Professionals, Fran Goldman, reported that she has had a lot of telephone calls regarding harassment and other issues. She stated that she is meeting with Joe Schultz, the Director of Human Resources, tomorrow. The issues involve more than one incident and more than one person. Fran also reported that there are people in the Leadership Training Program that are getting together on a monthly basis to try and learn more and to network. Donald Kunkel announced that two members of the Leadership Training Program were in attendance at the March Executive Board meeting. Guest Elise Thornley, an employee in the Library, stated that Donald Kunkel invited her to the March meeting. She added that she completed the Leadership Training Program

about a year ago. Guest Shannon Miranda stated that she works in the Science Library as the Access Services Coordinator. Benita thanked them both for coming to the March meeting.

6. Report of the Treasurer/Budget – see attached report:

Benita Roth announced that Interim Treasurer Lisa Gallagher was not able to attend the March Executive Board meeting. Benita added that Lisa is not running for Treasurer in the upcoming election and the Chapter is desperately in need of a Treasurer. Lisa has agreed to train someone. Benita noted that it is her understanding that the position is not very difficult. As Chapter President, Benita cannot be Treasurer. Benita asked Executive Board members to review the February 2015 Treasurer's Report, which was submitted by Lisa Gallagher. Fran Goldman **MOVED TO ACCEPT** the February 2015 Treasurer's Report. **SECONDED** by Neil Christian Pages. **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

7. Newsletter update/ website update:

Benita stated that the March 2015 Newsletter was dedicated to contingent employees in teaching (i.e. adjuncts), and added that she really liked that this was done and thinks it was a really good response given that we cannot advocate a walkout due to New York State law. We were able to get a nice mix of four adjuncts to speak openly about their positions. The Newsletter has been delivered and, returning to our former means of labeling the Newsletter for distribution, there will be a "sticker party" on Tuesday, March 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Library Special Collections Conference Room. If Executive Board members have time, Benita encouraged them to come and help. Linda will send out an email reminder to everyone.

Benita announced that we now have a Chapter website and thanked Donald Kunkel for his assistance with this. Don has agreed to maintain the website and post information to it. Benita stated that she had an interesting encounter with Dean McCall at the Dean's Lecture Series. One of the things Dean McCall asked Benita was what was UUP, what kinds of issues does UUP deal with, and issues UUP deals with that are different from what the Faculty Senate deals with. Benita was able to encourage her to take a look at our website, which includes Executive Board Meeting Minutes, Labor Management Meeting Notes, Chapter Newsletters, announcements, etc. Don informed Benita that he has received the March Newsletter in electronic form, and asked if he could post it to the website. After checking with Newsletter Editor Lisa Havtur that the electronic copy was a final copy, it can be posted to the website. Benita announced that Lisa Havtur thinks we can get one more Newsletter out during the first week in May, which is the last week of the semester. Benita encourages people to think of ideas to write about and submit articles of approximately 500-800 words. She added that it is a really pleasurable and easy form of writing.

8. "Beat the Blues Event" – our annual event held on February 25 was a success, with probably about a 100 in attendance, good food, wonderful music thanks to Bob Pompi and the Harpur Chamber Jazz Ensemble. Thanks to Linda O'Branski for her help in arranging the event. Several people came up to me to ask that we hold

these socials more often. To that end, what do we think about holding a similar event in the fall?

Benita stated that she deemed the recent “Beat the Winter Blues” event successful. Several people have asked that we hold these socials more often. Technically, these are membership meetings. Benita asked Executive Board members if they thought a similar event should be held in the fall. Some suggestions for titles included a Welcome Back Party, Fall Follies, and Oktoberfest. Neil Christian Pages **MOVED** that we hold a fall social event. **Seconded** by Serdar Atav. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT**. A UUP Binghamton Chapter fall social event will be held, the title of which will be determined.

9. Parking – the Parking Advisory Committee was recently reconfigured at a “Parking and Transportation Study Group,” resulting in some members from UUP being cast off and others re-assigned to non-parking subcommittees. We are raising this issue at the next Labor Management meeting. Thoughts?

Benita announced that Vice President Brian Rose will be attending the March 16 Labor Management meeting to discuss the Parking and Transportation Study Group. Benita was asked to give the name of a UUP representative to serve on the Parking and Transportation Study Group. Serdar Atav explained that Brian Rose approached the Faculty Senate Executive Committee regarding a transportation stakeholder committee. Parking was never a part of it. At that point, there was no mention of the Parking Advisory Committee being totally eliminated. When the members came to the meeting, they were that we no longer have a Parking Advisory Committee; instead we have a “Parking and Transportation Stakeholders Group.” All others had already been assigned to one of the subcommittees of this new advisory group.

Sandra Michael added that she volunteered for the committee because it had to do with parking. Benita noted that our members are mostly concerned with parking, so we want our representative on the parking subcommittee and should have been informed and actually asked where would we would like our representative to go? Benita received an email from Bob Snyder stating that he had been placed on the capital improvement subcommittee, although he is perfectly fine serving on it. Benita said that in the road map infrastructure committee one of the things that came out of that is a need for fuller review of parking and transportation issues. Sandra Michael stated there is a big binder that she got in her committee for the transportation/parking group from the consulting company [Nelson Nygaard]. Although she won’t go through the whole history of parking on campus, the issue has been up and down. In the 1960s, the Faculty Senate voted out traditional faculty/staff parking because they thought it was unfair to have that advantage. The Union is keeping the price of parking down. Discussion followed regarding the problems with hang tag lots, and Sandra Michael suggested that the UUP Executive Board and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee support a motion removing hangtag lot requirements/requirements be removed from commuter lots.

Darryl Wood stated that there are two points to be aware of regarding parking. 1) Parking involves terms and conditions of employment, and he suggested that the Faculty

Senate Executive Committee not touch this with a 20 ft. pole. 2) In the Agreement, there is a parking article; either side can ask that parking issues be negotiated, and so we want to be very careful if we go down this path that we are not asking for negotiations. Once we open up one part of parking, we open up the whole issue of parking. Just be very aware that how we frame this question may lead us down a path that will hurt us.

Benita stated that we are more or less at status quo, but that construction and state vehicles are parking where they shouldn't. She is very mindful of what Darryl says. Fran added that what Darryl is alluding to is the registration fee is now \$25 but they can change that to a per vehicle parking fee like The Research Foundation pays, which is about a couple of hundred dollars. She noted that at negotiations, they did not go near parking. Sandra Michael stated that it sounds like we are going nowhere with this issue. Benita replied that the Faculty Senate is going to hear about the displeasure regarding commuter lots. We can strongly encourage that without a motion. Benita would like a copy of the Nelson/Nygaard report to be made available to the general university community. The Campus Climate Survey is another report that should be made available. Benita is glad there is a binder available, and she would like to see that this is available to everyone. She asked if there is a link to this report, she would like to receive it. Darryl Wood explained the "funny game" that they [the administration] play. Back when we negotiated parking, there was a number of spaces in the 5300 range although since then they have added parking. As long as they don't go below the 5300 spaces, even though they may close a lot, if there is still a spot on campus they are still okay. Benita assured Executive Board members that we will be very clear with our displeasure. David Stone asked that if anyone sees an outside contractor's vehicle not parked within the fenced in area, to call Physical Facilities Customer Service at x72226 and let them know and someone in house can get them parked in the appropriate spot.

Neil Christian Pages addressed concern with the aggression of drivers on the campus as her rides a bicycle and feels that he has almost been run over. Melissa Zinken added that not being able to find parking is a safety issue, because if one can't find a spot, one drives faster and becomes more frustrated.

10. Issues and Concerns from the Executive Board:

A question was asked about the Computer Center moving back from the new space in O'Connor. Benita explained that according to information received at the February Labor Management meeting, the employees want to go back and our critical maintenance budget has been decimated (so that new projects have been tabled). She noted that she does not have any more information than that. Fran added that apparently the furniture in the former space had not been removed but people are not moving back into the same spots. The space is being divided up without a lot of consultation, which is typical on this campus. Beth Kilmarx asked why the employees are being moved back to the area they vacated. Donald Kunkel noted that the unofficial answers have to do with complaints of employees, no critical maintenance and trying to make employees happy. Fran Goldman added that she heard privacy was also an issue.

Regarding the question of the Decker School moving to the new Pharmacy School building, Benita stated that she has been told repeatedly that there are no concrete plans to move the Decker School. She also noted that the Campus Climate Survey was supposed to be discussed today. Donald Kunkel stated that he was at a PEC meeting and Larry Roma talked about the new Pharmacy School and mirroring that facility with a nursing school at the same site. There are plans and visions. If they can secure funding for a plot of land where the Pharmacy School is, there could be a mirror image building for the Nursing School.

Susan Seibold-Simpson stated that the space now occupied by the Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies is disgusting and suggested that decisions regarding moving departments be more transparent. Benita noted that there is a Space Committee on campus, but she does not know who is on it. David Stone offered that the Physical Facilities long term plan should have some of that information that people are interested in. Beth Kilmarx added that she does not know if it would be a union concern or not, but shouldn't someone on campus be watching for shoddy construction? Joseph Goldman informed the Board that we only oversee the general contractor. David Stone added that our people act more in a lot of ways as a liaison. There are warranty issues and there is follow up.

Benita stated that in the February 23 Labor Management meeting notes, the issue of contribution to mission was discussed. These meetings have been going on every 2-3 years, and the administration would like them to be held on a 3-year basis. Information, such as costs of faculty members per student educated, how many majors, what are the publications, how do we stack up to other similar departments at other universities, is collected and given to departmental officers. The Provost stressed that the info is not to be taken as report cards, but meant to give information to departments about what they are doing. Benita stated that UUP uncovered several depts. who were displeased with error creep and trying to get to the error creep out as faculty reports are being summarized. UUP also uncovered one dept. were apparently the "contribution" info was potentially to be used to reallocate tasks – teaching, research, service – among faculty members. Benita added that she thinks the Provost was surprised that these meetings have come up as an issue. The Provost has been encouraged to make this data more widely available and we have asked him to construct a blurb on their website that explains the purpose of the contribution to mission. These meetings happen, and some departments share them and some don't. Neil Christian Pages stated that he would hope we not move towards transparency of this information, as it is a conversation and we all know the Delaware Study [on which much of the "contribution" material is based] is flawed. The info in the contribution to mission meetings is not just faculty reports, but also national comparative data which then gets discussed. Knowing and acknowledging that people can interpret it differently, like prime time percentage reports. One does not need to prepare for these meetings. We talk about the data but it is not data that Neil Christian would want to release. The Provost and department talk about what the department is doing and what its goals are. Goals must be different at every level. Neil Christian spoke about the data graphs, showing them to Don Nieman, who laughed about them, so he got it too. Neil Christian was concerned that wide release of flawed data

would be divisive, with a small group of people within a department not sharing the reports and taking action against faculty. Heather DeHaan added that when we were talking about transparency, we were talking about the chairs would have a full discussion with faculty and were not publishing things that were 1) protecting individual faculty and 2) making sure everyone in the department is informed and is participating in the discussion. Benita stated that the question is, was there something else the Provost could do to make sure that chairs approached the information in the right way? She added that we 1) encouraged Provost Nieman to put something on the website that describes what contribution to mission is and 2) we did recommend that other members in the department know more. In the sociology department, we took the data and discussed it with the faculty. That was our approach, and Benita thought it was a good approach. Serdar stated that for one reason or another, the School of Nursing has never heard of contribution to mission, although they do fill our annual reports. Benita added that the School of Management is also not involved in contribution to mission. Benita stressed that the Provost does not want a punitive approach and was receptive to our concerns.

11. Report of the President:

- a) **Our resolution to re: getting rid (eventually) of the DA was echoed by Buffalo State – see the attached resolution, which did pass on February 27 by a unanimous vote in that chapter (you have the unsigned version attached). The resolution will be voted on at the Spring DA. There is some momentum here. Buffalo State resolution will be voted on at the spring DA.**
- b) **Speaking of the Spring DA, it is a little early this year, on Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 at the Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY. Saratoga is lovely in the spring. There will be a lot of consequential activity (voting on officers etc.) and given the abbreviated Winter DA, it would be great if we could get as many people as possible to go. Let Linda know your plans if you haven't already.**
Benita announced that there will be an election of officers.
- c) **The Center for Civic Engagement's Institute on Community-Engaged Teaching, Research & Scholarship accepted our sponsorship of their Institute on experiential learning (March 18th and 19th) with the following language to appear in the program: "The Binghamton Chapter of United University Professions (UUP) is happy to sponsor the Center for Civic Engagement's first Institute on Community-Engaged Teaching, Research & Scholarship. We believe that this institute came about in the right way -- crafted by Binghamton University faculty along with other members of the university community, embedded in and tied to Binghamton University's curriculum, reflecting our university's high academic standards and aimed at meeting students' needs."**
Benita announced she thought that it was a good compromise and the state thought it was a good compromise. Coming from below, we did not want it to look like we were endorsing Cuomo. She added that she has been asked to participate in a roundtable on experiential learning. She will be clear in her roundtable.

- d) **Speaking of programs, the UUP co-sponsored 2015 Harpur College Dean's Distinguished Lecture, was held on Friday, February 20th. Our co-sponsorship was listed in tiny type at the bottom of the program, and my presence as a speaker was left off as well. Dean McCall was dutifully abashed and I was able to address the 60 or so folks gathered to hear Nancy Um's really interesting talk "A Mosque, a Tomb, and the Arabian Legacy of Coffee."**

Benita stated that Nancy Um did a great job and the Lecture was attended by about 60 people, but Dean McCall forgot to put Benita on the program as a speaker and put the co-sponsorship language in small print at the bottom of the program. Next year Benita promises to remind Dean McCall that it is a tradition to give the UUP president or representative a chance to address those gathered. Benita added that she was able to explain a lot in about 10 minutes. Sandra Michael stated that if the event is going to be held in either the Mandela Room or the Old Union Hall in the future, she suggests that a microphone be used because it was difficult to hear. Benita thanked Sandra for letting her know and she will pass that information on to Dean McCall. Donald Kunkel noted that there is a nice lecture hall space in the Center of Excellence and that parking there is getting a little bit better. A shuttle also runs there every 20 minutes.

- e) **If you have not done so already, please send in your ballots for executive board members and chapter officers with write in names (your own and/or others). We still do not have anyone who is willing to be treasurer. We need someone to do this.**

Benita urged Executive Board members to please send in their ballots. If anyone forgot to put their name on the ballot, please write it in. She also stressed that the chapter still needs a Treasurer.

Serdar Atav noted that emails received from UUP Central and emails received from UUP Binghamton both have UUP in the title. He suggested that if the Binghamton email title was changed to read UUP Binghamton, people would be more likely to pay attention to this. (Note: Thanks to the help of Donald Kunkel, this title has now been changed.)

Beth Kilmarx announced events being held in the Library this week and encouraged Executive Board members to attend.

Fran Goldman **MOVED** to adjourn. **SECONDED** by Donald Kunkel. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, from 11:30 am. to 1:00 p.m. in UUW 324.