

MINUTES

UUP Binghamton Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., UUW-324

Present: S. Atav, V. Carnegie, B. Cornick, L. Fuller, F. Goldman, J. Goldman, B. Kilmarx, D. Kunkel, S. L’Hommedieu, D. Lewis, M. Little, S. Massey, N. Pages, R. Pompei, B. Roth, S. Ryan, R. Snyder, A. Wang

Guests: D. Wood, Labor Relations Specialist
A. Bornemisza, E. Colon, C. Ignarri, G. Jackson

The Meeting was called to order at 11:38 a.m. President Benita Roth welcomed Executive Board members and guests to the September 2016 meeting.

- 1. Vote to approve Minutes from Executive Board Meeting, May 4, 2016. See attached.**
Stuart L’Hommedieu **MOVED TO APPROVE** the May 4, 2016, Executive Board Minutes. **SECONDED** by Lori Fuller. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
- 2. Passing the Hat for the Sunshine Fund:**
The Sunshine Fund was set up to use for purposes that would not be covered by the Chapter Allocation, such as get well gifts and retirement gifts. The Executive Board has been passing the hat for the last three years. It is voluntary and up to members if they want to contribute or not. \$23.00 was collected at the September meeting.
- 3. Treasurer’s report for May, June, July and August: see attached.**
Treasurer Joseph Goldman asked if there were any questions regarding the May, June, July and August 2016 reports that were sent. He explained that there were not many bills to be paid during the summer. Joseph announced that he has completed the audit package, and Statewide has confirmed that they have received it. Benita Roth questioned how many Feepayers the UUP Binghamton Chapter has. Joseph replied that it is approximately 11 or 12% but that Statewide wants the number down to 5%. Fran Goldman **MOVED TO APPROVE** the May-August, 2016 Treasurer’s Reports. The motion was **SECONDED. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** Joseph suggested people be recognized by giving them plaques, pins, pens, etc. Benita Roth explained that Joseph not only serves as Treasurer but he also is a membership committee co-chair. He works with new employees and helps us sign up members each month, which is very important. She thanked him for his service.
- 4. Report of the Vice-President, Professionals.**

Vice President for Professionals, Fran Goldman reported that she was not here all summer but there were two professional employee committee elections. 1. The College Review Panel, which directly relates to issues of salary increases and promotion for professionals below the level of the President. 2. The College Committee on Professional Evaluation, which is charged with reviewing, at the request of a Professional, an “Unsatisfactory” evaluation. The report and recommendation of the Committee are forwarded to the President for action. The College Committee on Professional Evaluation is composed of members from both management and labor. Fran announced that she is planning to hold a Workshop on permanent appointment for professional employees sometime next month.

5. **Appointment of an Interim Vice President for Academics Report of the Vice-President, Academics. Susan Seibold Simpson has left BU and taken a job at SUNY Polytechnic. Hence, we need a new interim AVP.**

The relevant part of the Chapter Bylaws, Article VI “Elections,” reads as follows:

2. The terms of office of officers, delegates, and alternate delegates shall begin on June 1 of the year of election and shall be for a period of two years, except that a person elected to fill vacancies for the remainder of a term shall take office upon election.

3. In the event of a vacancy of an elected Chapter Officer, the Executive Board shall within thirty days either designate a person to serve out the term of the office or direct that a special election be held. The person elected or appointed to the vacant position will serve until the next election.

Serdar Atav, who has held the AVP position before, has agreed to serve as AVP until the next elected AVP is put in place June 1, 2017. Per the by-laws, the Executive Board can appoint him.

Benita Roth requested that Serdar Atav leave the room in order for the Executive Board to discuss his pending appointment as Interim Vice President for Academics. After Serdar left the room, Benita Roth entertained a discussion. No discussion followed. Neil Christian Pages suggested the Executive Board vote. By a show of hands, the Executive Board appointed Serdar Atav as Interim Vice President for Professionals. Benita thanked Serdar for agreeing to serve.

6. **Newsletter/Communications Committee – Beth Kilmarx and Lori Fuller.**

Benita announced that she has received great feedback about the nicer, more colorful format of the Newsletter and asked Lori Fuller and Beth Kilmarx to give an update of the next Newsletter. Lori announced that, thanks to Beth, they have lots of articles as well as articles from other publications, such as the Connection. Sources have been contacted for permission to use these articles.

Beth reported that she has about 14 possible articles, small put she cast a wide net and will see what comes back. Beth is getting something regarding the Tobacco

Free Campus Initiative. She would like members of the administration, faculty and staff to contribute to the Newsletter. As everyone liked the Newsletter, Beth asked, although it was more expensive, if we could do the same type of Newsletter again. Benita asked if Beth had a budget and added that only one issue was going to be published this fall. Joseph Goldman reported that the cost for the last Newsletter was roughly \$1200 and \$650 before the format update. Benita stated that the Chapter is sitting on a lot of cash and using it in this manner would be acceptable to Statewide as it loves to see organs of communications. Joe added that there is a budget item in place for the Newsletter, and **MOVED** to allocate \$1300 and if it goes over, we request more. **SECONDED** by Sean Massey. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT**. Beth announced that the deadline for submission of articles is September 30. Benita reported that she asked Statewide to put something on the UUP website where people are able to sign up for Vote Cope. The NYSUT website has this but you can't get to it unless you enter an ID, which is not ideal.

7. **CAP (Chapter Action Project) report – Joe Goldman and Erik Colon**
We conducted a phone bank at the NYSUT offices on the parkway: five of us called over 200 folks on fee payers lists and had promises from about 10-12 folks to sign up as members. We hope to have another phone bank. We also still have both alphabetical lists of fee payers and a binder full of fee payers broken down by unit/dept in the office (see Linda O’Branski). We also have the means to have fee payers sign up as members via the new online membership card <https://uuphost.org/myuup/Membership/RegForm.php>. We had over forty new faculty in attendance at the Faculty Orientation Breakfast and managed to sign up over thirty folks there. CAP will be having another meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown, October 28-30. It would be great if some folks from here could go. I believe we can send up to four.

Benita Roth invited Erik Colon to talk about the Chapter Action Project. Erik announced that in August, the Chapter did its first phone bank to engage membership. He thanked Darryl Wood for putting together the script. Eleven people agreed to sign up, which Erik thinks is a pretty good number. They will be launching a phone bank at the Fall Delegate Assembly. He added that he and Joseph Goldman have been discussing ways of getting our members engaged with a variety of activities both on and off campus. Ideas include members who are participating in events such as the CHOW walk or Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, wear red UUP shirts or hats. Joseph Goldman noted that CSEA does this all the time. He suggested getting UUP Binghamton Chapter golf shirts, as some of the other chapters have done. Darryl Wood noted that purchase of these items would be agency fee rebateable. Another suggestion is to donate to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier by either doing a food drive or by bringing a non-perishable item to meetings and events. Joe will do research on the golf shirts, which are approximately \$13 each. Benita will talk with Tom Hoey at Statewide and request some t-shirts [BR note: these have to be paid for with either CAP or chapter funds] . Benita asked board members to let her know of events so

that emails can be sent out on the listserv and agreed that it is a good, effective kind of way to get our name out there. Darryl Wood reminded board members of the CAP meeting to be held at the Otesaga in Cooperstown the last weekend in October. This is a good opportunity to be trained on some of the issues we are talking about. If anyone is interested, please let us know and we can have you attend.

8. **UUP sponsorship of campus events: We have been asked to sponsor events that we have sponsored in the past. Specifically, the Professional Staff Senate has asked us to help sponsor their luncheon, on October 26th, although I believe we are owed money from last year? Courtney Ignarri is here to tell us about PSS. Also, as usual, we have been asked to co-sponsor the Harpur Dean's Lecture on November 16th. The speaker is Subal Kumbhakar from the Economics Department. These events have traditionally been seen as requiring a similar outlay from us. Both are well attended events and help to get our name out there to people. Discussion?**

Benita Roth introduced Courtney Ignarri. Courtney thanked the Board for inviting her to speak and announced that she is a professional employee in the Harpur Dean's Office and the new President of the Professional Staff Senate. Courtney reported that the Professional Staff Senate is a campus government that is working to try and get equity with the Faculty Senate. It has requested a budget review committee and the right to evaluate senior administrators. The President has approved PSS and it is now waiting to get the vote out. She explained some of the concerns and goals that PSS has and that their new Treasurer, Brandy Emm is working to refund the \$540 to UUP, which is money owed from last year's luncheon. She added that the luncheon on October 26 is an opportunity to recognize professional staff members. In response to Courtney's request for questions, Beth Kilmarx stated her issues with the lack of attendance at the luncheon by senior staff. Courtney will be meeting with President Stenger next month. Although she cannot force it, she can encourage more senior staff to attend. Beth also suggested that in order to get more professionals involved, there should be more opportunities for membership on campus-wide committees. Courtney will do her best to make this happen. Bob Pompei reported that the Professional Staff Senate Luncheon and Dean's Lecture Series are paired. Years ago he and Dean Polachek met and saw that the Lecture Series only involved faculty and that we should be doing a parallel recognition for professional staff. To parallel, they limited exposure for the Dean's Lecture Series to \$300 a session. Bob Pompei **MOVED** to approve the Dean's Lecture Series in the amount of \$300 and the Professional Staff Senate Luncheon in the amount of \$500. **SECONDED** by Beth Kilmarx. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**

9. **NYPIRG on campus and the SUNY "Rock the Vote" effort: The NYPIRG chapter rep, Alex Bornemisza is here to tell us about campus efforts to get out the vote.**

Benita Roth introduced Alex Bornemisza to the Executive Board. Alex thanked the Board for having him at the meeting and explained what NYPIRG is and what

it does. Just last year, NYPIRG received signatures on over 2000 petitions for free tuition, 1000+ postcards were sent with regards to the Maintenance of Effort (MOE), 2000 pounds of food was collected and given to the campus food pantry and CHOW. Alex announced that NYPIRG is looking to do similar events this year and would love to get involved with UUP and its efforts as well. He explained that the one thing that brings it all together is voting. Although millennials are now the largest voting block of people in the country, you wouldn't know it by looking at how many go out and vote. One of the big issues is that they are not registered. They either don't understand the process or are registered back home. Many don't think their vote matters, when it very much does. The most effective way to change this is to talk with students while they are in class. Alex passed around a sheet asking for name, department, class, location, time and email, giving those who are teaching an opportunity for representatives from NYPIRG to come into classes and speak to the students about registering and getting them engaged in the political process. Alex noted that NYPIRG has been doing this for 43 years and asked if there were any questions. Beth Kilmarx suggested that Alex talk with a representative from the League of Woman Voters and will give Alex the contact information. Discussion followed about ways to get voter registration information more widely circulated.

10. Issues and Concerns from the Executive Board.

Benita Roth presented Gordon Jackson with a black-bordered certificate and five-year pin for Membership and Service and thanked him.

Bob Pompei suggested that after the November election, Linda telephone Fred Akshar's office and request that he meet in his office with four or five members of the UUP Binghamton Chapter [BR NOTE: Akshar has been endorsed by NYSUT]. Bob suggests waiting two or three weeks after the election but before the budget comes out to meet and begin pushing the Statewide MOE and aid to education. He added that he feels a lot of what is happening on campus is the result of the Senate representation in our district. Erik Colon stated the EOP office is still waiting for a call back from Fred Akshar's from back in February when the Director asked to schedule an appointment. Bob Pompei replied that February is not a good time because they are in legislative session and suggested that calls be made on a weekly basis if you don't get an answer. Darryl Wood added that if the chapter does not receive a return telephone call, to let UUP in Albany know. Darryl Wood cautioned not to get ahead of ourselves because Fred has not yet been elected, although he likely will be. He also suggested that photos be taken of these types of activities and other events so they can be put in the Newsletter, posted on the website and copies sent to UUP Albany. Benita Roth agreed that it is a good idea to schedule this meeting if Fred Akshar does get elected.

11. President's Report:

a. We have a full slate of events coming up. First I would like to encourage executive board members to sign up for one of the “kick off lunches” - Wednesday, September 28 at noon in the Chenango Room or Thursday, September 29 at 1:30 p.m. in the Chenango Room. Come and bring a friend. Linda O’Branski will be sending an email reminder.

Benita encouraged Executive Board members to sign up for a kick off lunch and bring a friend. The lunches give you a chance to talk more intimately with other members and her. She reminded people that we decided to do the lunches because there was a lack of enthusiasm for the kick-off dinner.

We have the Fall DA coming up September 30 and October 1st. I hope to see a number of you there – we have unfinished business from the Spring DA because of the squirrel in the transformer in Saratoga Springs (or whatever causes a fire that cut out power to the downtown area).

Benita stated that members who attended the Spring DA were not able to finish electing statewide officers due to the power interruption.

The “Fall Frolic is scheduled for October 19th at 4:30 p.m. in the Mandela Room. Tell all your friends.

Benita announced that there will be music, food and alcohol at the event. She will give her basic five-minute talk, and try to get someone from Statewide to attend.

We will have the (third?) annual “Getting Tenure” workshop on Wednesday, October 26th, 8:30-10:00 a.m. in U UW-324. This should be a well-attended event. We will have a general membership meeting on Wednesday, November 2, from 8:30 – 10 a.m. in U UW-324.

We will have the University Wide Benefits Fair on Thursday, November 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mandela Room.

Benita encouraged Executive Board members to attend and volunteer at this event. She asked members to encourage other people to attend as well.

b. I, and several other members of the BU community (several hundred?) attended President Stenger’s “State of the University” address. It was chiefly and event for local media; he did not take questions. Per the Agreement, he will be attending out December Labor Management meeting. Interestingly, in an article in *Pipe Dream* a couple of weeks ago, he acknowledged that faculty salaries were lagging but implied that this was our fault, since we are currently in negotiations and he doesn’t know what will happen regarding raises, etc.

Benita Roth reported that President Stenger acknowledged (in *Pipe Dream*) that faculty salaries here are lagging, but he didn’t say anything about professionals. In spite of implying that it was kind of UUP’s fault, this is actually the first time Benita can remember him actually acknowledging that there is a problem. She was intrigued by the fact that there were no questions after the State of the

University Address. He announced the renewal of the road map process. Benita would encourage people if they are interested to sign up for the roadmap committees. Serdar Atav reported that at the Faculty Senate meeting, President Stenger basically gave the same talk and did take questions. There were a lot of questions, mostly positive. He agreed that they had not asked for new roadmap rules, and he was not defensive. But the Faculty Senate did state that the timing of the new TAE (Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence) was awkward, adding to the clusters that they have been attempting, the five that exist on campus. Health sciences and smart energy, three in which they did through polling the campus community – they just announced there would be a sixth one.

Two other issues by were addressed at this point (at the Faculty senate meeting): parking and the university calendar. The complaint this semester is there are no places to park. Vice President Rose gave a long speech but said nothing at the end. Neil Christian Pages added that a faculty member said, “President Stenger, your representative did not answer the question.” So President Stenger answered it in some way. Regarding the Academic Calendar, some really important points were brought up, particularly regarding families as the university calendar never seems to coincide with that of the schools. President Stenger was not defensive. Benita Roth stated that Bob Snyder is UUP’s representative to the Task Force on Parking and asked Bob if he had any comments. Bob stated that he would like to hear issues in order to be able to take them back to the committee. He agreed that this is probably the worst season yet for parking. Bob is also a member of the Parking Appeals Committee. Discussion followed on the lack of adequate parking and proper communication of lot closures and restrictions. Benita thanked Bob Snyder for serving on the committee. Benita will be in touch with Bob, as parking is obviously an issue of concern for everyone.

c. There is a new membership-only portal on the uupinfo.org for negotiations information. See <http://uupinfo.org/negotiations/index.php> for how to access the info, which will be updated as warranted.

d. It was a relatively quiet summer. I attended the Chapter Presidents retreat which was chiefly about the upcoming state and federal elections. I also attended the NYSUT endorsement conference which was about the upcoming state and federal elections.

Serdar Atav **MOVED** to adjourn. **SECONDED** by Sean Massey. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in U UW 324.