

MINUTES
UUP Binghamton Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
UW 324

Present: R. Andrews, S. Atav, B. Cornick, L. Fuller, F. Goldman, J. Goldman, B. Kilmarx, S. L'Hommedieu, M. Little, S. Massey, S. Michael, N. Pages, R. Pompei, B. Roth, R. Snyder, D. Stone, A. Wang

Guests: D. Wood, Labor Relations Specialist, E. Colon, S. Dingman, G. Jackson

The meeting was called to order at 11:38 a.m. President Benita Roth welcomed Executive Board members and guests to the February 2017 meeting.

- 1. Vote to approve Minutes from Executive Board Meeting, December 7, 2016. See attached. Any questions or concerns?**
Sean Massey **MOVED TO APPROVE** the December 7, 2016, Executive Board Minutes. **SECONDED** by Neil Christian Pages. David Stone **ABSTAINED**.
MOTION PASSED.

- 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. \$33.00 was collected at the February 2017 meeting.

- 3. Treasurer's report: Chapter Treasurer Joe Goldman would like to address the following:**
 - a) December 2016 and January 2017 Treasurer's Reports need Executive Board approval.**
Treasurer Joseph Goldman reviewed the December 2016 and January 2017 Treasurer's Reports, explaining that most of the expenditures were for payment of the usual bills. He reported that there was a question regarding the Professional Staff Senate luncheon, but payment was made by UUP. Joe explained that whenever an observer attends the Delegate Assembly, the Chapter gets charged the person's room rate, and this expenditure will show up from time to time. An Executive Board Member **MOVED TO APPROVE** the December 2016 and January 2017 Treasurer's Reports. **SECONDED** by Stuart L'Hommedieu. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
 - b) 2017-2018 Budget Draft/ad hoc committee appointment.**
Joe asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee to draft the 2017-2018 chapter budget. Serdar Atav, Erik Colon and Fran Goldman will serve on this committee and will meet for lunch next week to prepare a draft. According to the Chapter By-Laws, upon review of the Executive Board, the draft will be placed on the chapter website and a vote will be taken at the March 1, 2017, Membership Meeting.
 - c) Agency Fee Rebate Guidelines.**

Joe explained the agency fee rebate guidelines, noting that Statewide would like the amount of these rebates to be approximately 5%. The Binghamton Chapter rebate was closer to 8% last year. UUP Statewide comes up with a number based on a range of factors, largely by what auditors are telling them. This money is then set aside, assuming all agency feepayers will request a rebate. If not all of the amount is requested, it comes back to UUP. The real concern has to do with the court case [that is, Supreme Court cases that could affect right to collect dues]. If the number of feepayers increases dramatically, the agency fee rebateable amount will increase dramatically. A feepayer who requests this rebate receives approximately \$200. Discussion followed on what is and is not considered an agency fee rebateable expense. In answer to the question of is it possible to know if something is agency fee rebateable before the Executive Board votes to purchase or sponsor/cosponsor, Joe explained that the auditors look at the expense and decide if it is or is not agency fee rebateable.

4. Report of the Vice-President, Professionals.

Vice President for Professionals, Fran Goldman reported that a committee who is looking at redoing the performance program and evaluation forms for professionals met yesterday. She explained that a lot will fall on IT once some of the questions are answered. Benita added that the issue of 100% compliance for the completion of professional employee performance programs and evaluations was addressed at the November Labor Management meeting. At this meeting, President Stenger agreed that these should be completed. Apparently whatever system Human Resources is now using cannot track this information. Benita suggested that a procedure similar to faculty annual reports be used, as not all supervisors regularly complete these. This prevents some professionals from requesting pay increases. The target date for a new online system is January 2018.

5. Report of the Vice-President, Academics.

Interim Vice President for Academics, Serdar Atav reported that the IDA award allocations have been completed and recipients were notified last week. Fran Goldman added that there were a number of glitches and people had asked for money past the deadline. Fran explained that Carol Bell is still working on some of these problems. IDA awards are for professionals and faculty, including part time employees. This will be the last round for the foreseeable future, until we get a new contract.

6. Newsletter/Communications Committee – Lori Fuller, and anyone else

Benita Roth reported that she is going to put out a general message to have someone serve on the communications committee to help Lori Fuller get a newsletter out this spring. Benita has received very positive feedback regarding the newsletter. Lori Fuller is in charge of the newsletter and Donald Kunkel manages the chapter website. If there is anyone else interested in joining them, their assistance would be welcomed. Serdar volunteered Mac, and according to our Chapter By-Laws it would be good to have a few more people involved. There are questions on how the articles will be submitted and to whom they will be submitted. Lori suggested that a separate meeting be held to address these issues and to set a deadline.

7. CAP (Chapter Action Project) Report – Joe Goldman and Erik Colon. News on shirts and other plans for action.

Joe Goldman and Erik Colon reported that the polo shirts have arrived and showed the shirts to the Executive Board. Sixty shirts were ordered. Linda will put out a call to Executive Board members asking for sizes. Fran Goldman **MOVED** to give the first thirty people attending “Beat the Winter Blues” a polo shirt. **SECONDED** by Serdar Atav. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** (NOTE: It was later decided to distribute the extra shirts to people attending the Membership Meeting on March 1, 2017).

Joe Goldman reported that by providing CAP funds, UUP Statewide is looking to get its members more involved in the community. The CAP incentive began about three years ago and is funded by NYSUT. Joe explained that some of the events the chapter can get involved in are the “Southern Tier Heart Walk” at Broome Community College on April 9, the “Relay for Life” at Binghamton University on April 28, and the “Bridge Run” in Binghamton on May 7. The chapter can have a team or sponsor a water table. Chapters from other campuses are involved in this sort of thing. Bob Pompei suggested volunteering at WSKG membership drives. Volunteers could wear their green polo shirts, sit at the tables, and answer the phones. The chapter could get camera shots, and it might be worth our while. Although CAP funds have to be applied for, Joe Goldman is not aware of any proposals that have been rejected. It was agreed that Bob Pompei will be the liaison for WSKG for the next drive. Erik Colon volunteered to be the liaison for “Relay for Life.” Joe and Erik will prepare a request for CAP funds and send it to Statewide.

8. Parking report: Bob Snyder, others?

Bob Snyder reported that a 300 space parking lot behind the West Gym has been approved. Ground breaking will occur right after Commencement. He added that a number of meetings with DOT have occurred over issues with leaving campus at the end of day. DOT has not been very sympathetic to the campus situation but is more concerned with tracking movement up and down the Parkway. There is still a problem with making the left-hand turn onto campus and drivers continue to cut into the UHS parking lot. Another issue that may be of concern is that the campus is proposing to do away with parking decals and license plates will now be the new permit. There will be a vehicle that comes around campus and reads your license plate. Tickets will be issued remotely or by someone physically. Benita explained that this issue was discussed at the last Labor Management meeting and she referred Executive Board members to the meeting notes. Apparently there is no savings involved with this change in procedure and the license plate pictures get stored for “the industry standard” of 180 days. It was strongly questioned why there is a need to keep any of the license plates in the system if no laws are being broken. The system is not tied to DOT and there is no type of enforcement unless there is a criminal investigation. Benita added that this item will continue to be brought up at future Labor Management meetings, as it appears to be a bad idea as it is currently structured.

Sandra Michael noted there is an organization that the campus wants to belong to, in order to be modern and there is an initiation fee. It has to do with some professional parking. Benita asked if Sandra could provide her with more information regarding this.

David Stone noted that along with the concern over the proposed reading of license plates, it is his understanding that campus telephone calls are recorded. The telephone numbers called into and out of campus are noted and sometimes the conversation itself. Emails can also be retrieved upon a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

9. Issues and Concerns of the Executive Board

Erik Colon announced that 118 students are attending EOP Advocacy Day on March 18. The Governor has proposed a 5.9 million dollar cut from EOP. Erik urged faculty to be supportive of students who would like to participate. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Erik know. Last year the Binghamton UUP Chapter purchased t-shirts in support of this event.

10. President's Report

a) Upcoming events -- Beat the Blues and General Membership meeting. Beat the Blues is happening on February 22 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come one, come all. I've invited UUP Statewide to come but I have not heard back from them. The general membership meeting is March 1, at 8:30 a.m. in UUP 324. Ditto on statewide visitors. If they don't come I will talk about negotiations a bit and then turn the floor over to whoever comes. PLEASE URGE FOLKS TO COME TO THESE EVENTS.

b) Performance programs/evaluations: There is movement afoot to put performance programs and evaluations for Professional UUP members online by 2018. This suggestion came from us (or more precisely, me) and President Stenger liked it, so there is movement. This is a good thing and a good example of how UUP functions as a resource to make its members' lives more fair.

c) The Winter DA happened again in Saratoga Springs, and this time, a squirrel did not short out the power grid and all continued apace. There was, as usual, too much to consider, especially given the recent change in US presidential administrations. State Comptroller Tom Di Napoli spoke, as did BU's own Peter Kneupfer. Darryl Wood gave a workshop. From my standpoint, all events were informative and although we face tough times, we have tough delegates to match.

d) Chapter elections: UUP Statewide is running the elections for us. Please do not automatically throw out envelopes that come to your house from UUP Statewide. There was, as usual, a lot of confusion about the nomination process. I will be sending out notices to the Exec. Board and our membership urging them to vote. It matters who is in our officer positions, who are delegates are, and who sits on our expandable Exec. Board. It is one of the perks of membership.

Benita explained that in order for a member to be able to come to a Delegate Assembly without the chapter incurring a room expense, they have to be a chapter delegate. The election ballots are going to be mailed around March 10. The Binghamton Chapter will have a change in officers. Sean Massey will run for President, Benita Roth for Academic Vice President, Renee Andrews for Officer for Contingents, and Sandra Michael for Retiree Officer. Fran Goldman will run again for Vice President for Professionals and Joe Goldman for Treasurer.

e) Negotiations: There is a new Negotiations Bulletin in the membership portal at uupinfo.org. We here have actually been fielding questions about the bulletin, which I consider a good thing. The chief negotiator, Philippe Abraham, still wants to hear from folks so feel free to email him, or have others do so with their concerns at pabraham@uupmail.org. The state of NY continues to come to tentative agreements with some state employees unions (like GSEU and NYSCOBAs, yet to be ratified).

f) Screening of "Starving the Beast: The Battle to Disrupt and Reform America's Public Universities:" At the recent Winter Delegate Assembly, it was noted that Kanopy, a video streaming service, has made available the 95-minute documentary named above. The film looks at the systematic defunding of public higher education, the exploding student debt crisis, and the well-financed market reform effort, focusing on six public research universities in Wisconsin, Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana and Texas. Apparently the film is available to chapters who might want to host a free screening for interested employees as part of the union's ongoing initiative to recruit and engage new members and activists (see attached).

There is more info about this documentary at the filmmakers' website at <http://www.starvingthebeast.net/>

If someone who is not me wants to take this up as a project, UUP could spend a little money on food and make it an event, possibly in the late afternoon early evening, and we could let others on campus know that we are screening it. I don't know anything about the logistics of doing this, but I assume a smart classroom with a PC or even one that is laptop ready can handle the streaming.

Fran Goldman **MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED** by Sean Massey. Meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in UUP 324.