

UUP CORTLAND CHAPTER -- EXECUTIVE BOARD

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2008

Location: Corey Union Rm. 305-306

Attending: Ashley, Atkins, Borden, Buxton, Dangler, Driscoll, Galutz, Gebhard, Kattau, Kreh, Owens, Pasquarello, Peluso, Pittsley, Ruoff, Selzner, Steck, Storch, VanHall, Wiegard, McGinnis

A. Report and Discussion Highlights

1. Presidents Report (Ashley)

- **Negotiations Team Visit** – Reminder that the Negotiations Team Visit is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 26, noon-2:00 pm, Corey Union Function Room. This is the first of the “Union Matters” lunchtime series.
- **Delegate Assembly Recap** – Phil Smith (Upstate Medical University) was elected Interim President to fill out Scheurman’s term (through June 2009). Fred Floss will return to his roles as VP of Academics and Chief Negotiator. Those who had attended the DA shared perspectives on the election process and outcome. Borden commented that the election process, as it unfolded, was “thrilling,” and Steck said he hopes the democratic process will continue in the future as it did during this election. All agreed that this is an important time in the union’s history. Wiegard shared perspectives on the Part-Time Concerns Committee (PTCC) meeting that she attended, stating that there was “open revolt” at the contract outcome. Gebhard expressed appreciation that Smith came to the PTCC meeting to listen, rather than to “talk at” the group as had been done by union leadership in the past.
- **Labor Management Update** – Written notes from the February 6 Labor-Management meeting were distributed and discussed.
- **Graduate Coordinators Compensation** – As indicated in the February 6 Labor-Management notes, this issue has not yet been resolved. Buxton and Kattau shared perspectives on the February 4 meeting with chairs and graduate coordinators. Borden proposed that UUP should establish its own committee or working group to discuss this issue, then present a proposal to the administration; Steck and Kreh agreed, recommending that UUP should bring the coordinators together to work on a plan, then present it to the administration for consideration, rather than continuing for the administration to come up with something suitable.
- **Advocacy** – Ritchie has scheduled Advocacy Training in the Chapter Office on February 21 from 8:30-10:00. Steck reported briefly on the Legislative Luncheon that he and Ritchie attended on February 12 in Albany, and distributed copies of the UUP 2008 Legislative Agenda. Dangler noted that Family Leave is mentioned in the legislative agenda, and said she hopes to organize a visit of chapter members to Senator Seward’s office later this spring to advocate for family leave.
- **State Budget** – Governor Spitzer recently revealed that the projected statewide deficit will be much deeper than initially projected, thus the SUNY budget looks more fragile than it did a month ago.

2. VP for Academics (Dangler)

- **Coaches** – Dangler suggested that, in the wake of the new contract, it will be very important to ensure that coaches are in the correct titles, thus she suggested a review of campus coaching titles. McGinnis will prepare a list of coaches/titles for review by Dangler and Ruoff.
- **External Review** – Campus discussions continue about external review; this remains an important issue for academics.
- **Personnel Issues** – Dangler has met with Ashley and Selzner in recent weeks to discuss various personnel matters. She and Ashley are meeting later today with Bitterbaum to discuss general issues related to disability leave.
- **Presidents & VPs Meeting in March** – The next New Leaders Workshop will be March 14-15 at the Sagamore, same dates as the Presidents & VPs retreat. Dangler asked who from the chapter was invited to attend. McGinnis said that Shedd was invited and may attend if his schedule permits; McGinnis will find out who else among our members was invited. Wiegard and Borden expressed interest in attending; Ashley agree to submit their names to UUP central for consideration.

3. Treasurers Report (Pasquarello)

- Written report was distributed and accepted.
- Steck suggested we look into other banks to get a better savings interest rate, but after brief discussion it was agreed that this was not worth the time or effort considering the small amount of money involved.

4. Part-Time Concerns Report (Owens)

- **Part-Time Labor-Management Committee** – Charles Maxfield and Michele Baran have been appointed new members of the Part-Time Labor-Management Committee. Kevin Pristash and Liz Owens (chair) will be continuing members. Meetings have been scheduled for February 27, March 24, and April 29.
- **PT LM Agenda** – Owens reported that the agenda for the February 27 meeting will focus on the issue of part-time student teaching supervisors. The board charged the UUP PT Labor-Management representatives with drafting a plan to instill “service awards” for long-time part-timers; the board wants the part-time concerns committee to develop a plan to propose to the administration this spring. Pittsley volunteered to help with this effort.

B. Old Business

1. Construction Concerns (Dangler)

- Dangler reported that there was a serious concrete dust problem in Van Hoesen on February 6; a detailed incident report is available from the campus University Police Department. Driscoll said that the Health and Safety Labor-Management Committee could add the matter to their February 15 agenda. Ashley will acquire a copy of the report for Driscoll prior to that meeting.
- Discussion ensued about construction problems historically. Atkins recommended that, given the record of problems that goes back for many years, UUP needs to make it a priority to ensure that people will be moved out of construction areas before projects begin, rather than waiting for the problems to arise and then think about moving people.

C. New Business

1. Listserv Issues (Borden)

- Borden recommended that we try to set up a campus blog or listserv discussion for members to communicate with each other. He has wanted to establish an “opt-out” list for several years, to which he would automatically subscribe people, but he has become frustrated with being told that neither UUP nor SUNY resources can accommodate his request. Peluso briefly explained how this is a very complicated issue subject to both SUNY policies and state law; Kreh explained further that national labor law prohibits use of union resources for certain purposes, particularly during contract negotiations. Pasquarello stated that, beyond the legal issues, he strongly opposes any effort to set up an “opt out” list, and expressed his grave annoyance with having been signed up to a list of this nature recently (i.e. the “Buffalo list” that became controversial prior to the recent DA). Wiegard said that many people appreciated the “Buffalo list” and that only 50 people, out of almost 500, opted out of it. Pasquarello said it was very difficult to opt out of it and complained about the number of unwanted e-mails he received in the meantime. Peluso explained that the list violated SUNY policy and that was why it was shut down.
- The possibility of setting up a listserv or blog using free resources, with no UUP or SUNY resources involved, was briefly discussed. It was agreed that we will continue to look into various possibilities to determine if something can be done that would help facilitate communication and that would be appropriate given UUP, SUNY, and other relative policies and legalities.

D. Items for Labor-Management

- Due to time constraints, discussion of Labor-Management items for March 18 meeting was postponed until the March 6 board meeting.

E. Motions/Actions

1. Motion to approve minutes from the 1/31/08 meeting -- Approved without dissent.
2. Motion to accept Treasurers Report -- Approved without dissent

Respectfully submitted,
John Driscoll, Chapter Secretary
Boodie McGinnis, Chapter Assistant