

UUP CORTLAND CHAPTER – EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2005

Attending: Ashley, Atkins, Dangler, Galutz, Janik, LeLoup, Nagel, Owens, Pasquarello, Ritchie, Storch, VanHall, McGinnis

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS *(note: This was a special meeting to focus on discussion items, thus usual business items and reports were deferred to the next meeting)*

1. President

- Chapter Meeting – Dates and possible topics for the Spring 2005 Chapter meeting were discussed at length. Consensus decision was to hold two meetings, at different times and on two consecutive days, in effort to accommodate varying schedules and hopefully attract as many part-timers as possible. Both meetings will include brief update on what the union has been doing on behalf of the bargaining unit, followed by discussion of major issues in “open mike” forum. Member input on major issues of concern will be solicited via mailing to all members; tentative topics include part-timer concerns, benefits (wellness & access to alternative medicine was suggested by Nagel), and alternate work schedule. *(Note: Chapter meetings were subsequently scheduled for April 5 (3:00-4:00) and April 6 (12:00-1:00), both in Corey Union Exhibition Lounge. Mailing announcing meetings and requesting member input on topics to discuss was sent out on March 10.)*
- Technology – Technology was identified as a potential issue for discussion at a future chapter meeting. This would follow up on prior technology-focused meeting. In the meantime, Ashley will ask Paula Warnken if the Technology Liaison Group is still active. If so, UUP may want to appoint a representative.
- Part-Time Concerns – Ashley reported that UUP officers are discussing part-time concerns at the Labor-Management level. Recent reports indicate that Cortland is in the mid-range (in relation to other SUNY campuses) for part-time salaries. Chapter leaders recently recommended that part-timers be paid pro-rated equivalent of amount paid to full-time lecturers. Pres. Bitterbaum acknowledged that this is probably a reasonable approach but argued that an increase in part-time salaries would result in loss somewhere else (i.e. perhaps reduction of full-time travel money, for example) because the available funds are finite. Ashley stressed the need for statewide political action, rather than leaving it in the hands of individual campuses, to work toward increase in part-time salaries. In the meantime, the campus UUP leadership will continue to push for greater equity for part-timers. Concern was expressed that part-timers don’t know what the union is doing on their behalf, thus this will be a topic for discussion at the upcoming chapter meetings.
- SEFA Parking Space– As previously reported, Pres. Bitterbaum created an “award” of a special parking space as an incentive for donating to SEFA. Following discussion about the pros and cons, the board agreed that UUP will not support continuation of this incentive in the future, but will ask President Bitterbaum to think of an alternative “prize”.
- Women’s Rights and Concerns Committee – Thus far, Cortland is not participating in the statewide Women’s Rights and Concerns Committee effort to gather anecdotal evidence of gender inequities (see minutes of 1/27/05). Suggestion was made to contact representatives in the history department, and ask Lisi Krall if previous study by Economics Dept. produced any relevant data. If not, Cortland will not participate this time.
- Release of Assessment Data– It was noted that faculty participated in GE studies with understanding that the data about individual campuses would not be released, then subsequently some of the data was released. Concern was expressed that the data is being used, or may in the future be used, in inappropriate ways, and that it may not be valid due to poor assessment tools. Further concern was expressed that release of the data violates the rights of faculty who participated only with the understanding that the data would not be released. It was also noted that faculty chosen to administer the assessment instruments didn’t have a choice whether to participate, thus interfering with academic freedom. Ashley suggested that this is a Faculty Senate issue, but agreed that UUP could also raise it with campus management.

- Frequency of Executive Board Meetings – It was agreed to have this special meeting to allow more time for discussion of a backlog of timely and important issues. Brief discussion ensued about whether to have more frequent Executive Board meetings ensued, but no action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,
David Ritchie, UUP Cortland Chapter Secretary
Boodie McGinnis, UUP Cortland Chapter Staff Assistant