

UUP CORTLAND CHAPTER – EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING NOTES

February 16, 2006

Attending: Ashley, Borden, Brush, Dangler, Janik, Nagel, Pasquarello, Ritchie, Ruoff, Selzner, Steck, Van Hall Wiegard, McGinnis

Note: This meeting was a “special discussion meeting” with no reports or actions.

Discussion Items:

1. Chapter Meetings – Ashley and the Vice-Presidents met on 2/9/06 to discuss chapter meetings. Dangler is planning two meetings on Academic Issues (one at Park Center, one at Corey Union), and will work with Owens to plan a meeting focused on Part-Time Issues. Galutz will organize and plan a workshop on workload issues for professionals. Dates will be confirmed by the next board meeting.
2. Full-Time Lecturer Memorandum of Understanding – discussion highlights:
 - Ashley – He and Joanne Barry hope the MOU will soon be ready to be signed. He met on 2/13 with Joanne, the deans, and the provost to discuss the MOU. Dean Prus is determined to have a cap established because he “feels daily the strain on tenure-track faculty to do service”; Prus reportedly would prefer to have the cap lower than 20% but the other deans and the provost agreed to 20% of all full-time faculty by school (including FTLs in the full-time count).
 - Borden – Argued against the cap, saying that the board has not had enough discussion on the issue of a cap since the November meeting when it was tabled, and that there has not been broad enough discussion across campus; implored the board to recommend to the college that the document be limited in time with periodic review guaranteed.
 - Pasquarello – Everyone, not just part-timers, is affected by the MOU issue, and there are many faculty who favor the cap. Argued that part-timers would be less effected if they had pro-rated salary. The issue of low pay for part-timers originates with the legislature, which underfunds SUNY; it’s not the fault of UUP that part-time salaries are so low, but the fault of the legislature. UUP has a plethora of interests to protect – all faculty, not just part-timers – and it is critical to argue for tenure-track positions.
 - Wiegard – Goal number one should be getting part-time salaries up; even if have pro-rated salary, part-timers have no guarantee of the number of courses they’ll be asked to teach in a given semester.
 - Nagel – Suggested surveying part-timers and FTLs so that we have a better idea of exactly what they do want.
 - Borden – Stated his belief that the union is choosing part-timers over FTLs if the MOU is accepted.
 - Dangler -- took issue with Borden’s statement and urged that we give credence to Dean Prus’s concern that the availability of unlimited FTLs will hamper his ability to argue for tenure-track lines at the cabinet level. Stated that she is willing to support the MOU as it now stands because there is not a better alternative at this point. Longterm, we need to commit to finding a better strategy for dealing with the problem in departments where structural need truly exists. For now, from her many discussions with people as VP for Academics, she does not have the sense that any majority of academics would want the door open to an unlimited number of FTLs.
 - Pasquarello – Expressed concern about perpetuating a special class of employees (FTLs) with fewer protections than tenure-track faculty, and noted that there are other alternatives to the way we do things now; (for example, other campuses have ways to deliver courses such as composition without using FTLs).
 - Ashley – Recently met with an Arts & Sciences department at their request; this department had hired part-timers in the past but was not interested in hiring FTLs. Their part-timers are typically short-term folks such as Ph.D. candidates from other nearby institutions. We have to respect the varied needs of all departments as well as budget, department practice and autonomy, and the welfare of all members of the bargaining unit.
 - Borden – Asked Ashley to argue for putting a time limit in place of the cap; doesn’t believe that the need for the cap has been successfully demonstrated.
 - Ashley – Time limit as replacement for a cap has not been on the table for discussion, thus he is reluctant to raise it at this point. Steck noted that we can continue to monitor how things progress and re-open discussion at a later date, even if no formal time limit is included in the MOU.
 - Ashley – Thanked the board for the extensive time and attention given to the MOU. He will bring it to the next board meeting for a vote.

3. Retention of Library Circulation Patron Records – Ashley reported that this issue had been discussed at the January Delegate Assembly in view of the Patriot Act. Stoney Brook is now destroying its circulation records after 7 days, a shorter time than our campus, which retains records for 30 days. On behalf of the library staff, VanHall presented arguments against the change on our campus due to operational needs and limitations of the ALEPH system. The consensus of those present was this issue should be withdrawn from the board's agenda. It will be placed on the agenda for the 3/2/06 meeting for board vote on withdrawal.
4. Lobbying the Legislature – Ritchie circulated copies of the UUP legislative agenda and signup sheets for March 7 and March 14 lobbying. Wiegard urged participants strongly advocate for higher part-time salaries. Steck recommended giving Bitterbaum a copy of lobbying talking points, and suggested that we put part-time salaries at the top of the list.
5. Deferred for discussion at future meeting
 - Workload Issues related to Independent Study
 - Strategy for Pro-Rata Salary for Part-Timers

Respectfully submitted,
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Boodie McGinnis, UUP Cortland Chapter Assistant