

UUP New Paltz Chapter – Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

11:00 am June 13th, 2011

In Attendance:

Executive Committee members: Peter Brown, Linda Smith, Jeff Miller, Rachel Rigolino, William Capowski, Glenn McNitt, Maryann Fallek, Beth Wilson, Donna Goodman, John Hain, Richard Kelder, Yvonne Aspengren, Joshua Simons, Salvatore Engel-DiMauro, John Sharp, Susan Lehrer, Maryalice Citera, Ed Hanley.

Other Members: Corinne Nyquist, Abigail Robin, Phyllis Sturm.

Proposed agenda for the day's meeting approved as submitted. Minutes of the 051111 Executive Committee meeting approved as submitted.

President's Report:

President Brown opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking all present to introduce themselves and share their priorities for the coming year. A wide range of priorities, issues and ideas were mentioned, including:

increasing participation by the membership; increasing union activism; protecting collective bargaining rights; reaching out to other unions; encouraging new people to get involved in chapter activities; improving communication within the chapter; raising the visibility of professionals; preparing for the next round of budget cuts; helping secure both SUNY's future and our own; respecting process and procedure to ensure the chapter does the right things in the right way; raising the visibility of the union and unionism; increasing chapter involvement in the local community; the well being of our students both on and off campus; childcare; employment terms and conditions for librarians; lobbying; mission creep; justice at the individual level; our contract; workers' rights; reinvigorating the infrastructure of the chapter; part-time issues; increased union presence on campus; improving our website; and joining local issues to larger overall labor issues.

Brown shared that he himself intends to spend the next two years activating our chapter in a way that has not happened before. Citing one example, existing committees will be reactivated or revitalized and additional committees may be established. Further, our focus will extend beyond the campus as we share many concerns with the community. Brown also acknowledged the wealth of experience possessed by the two past chapter presidents – Kelder and McNitt – who remain on the committee.

Officer Reports:

VP Miller: outlined an initiative to establish a faculty mentoring program. He indicated that grants appear to be available from the NYS/UUP Joint Labor Management Program to at least partially fund any such initiative. However, Kelder noted that those grant monies may no longer be available. Brown stated that the union can and should be involved in mentoring and recommended Miller continue pursuing the initiative regardless of whether or not non-chapter monies were still available. Miller suggested

that perhaps a subcommittee should be formed for this purpose. A brief discussion ensued.

VP Smith: professionals are continuing to express concerns about bullying, harassment, and job creep issues. Smith is working directly with the members involved to gather additional information. Also, more workshops for professionals are forthcoming; the next is scheduled for 6/24/11.

Grievance Officer Rigolino: is working closely with Labor Relations Specialist Capowski to get a handle on the responsibilities of her position. Training continues.

Old Business:

Noting that Interim President Christian is forming a taskforce on workload, Brown opined that the union should be involved in the effort. He asked the committee for its thoughts on exactly *how* we should be involved. Kelder recommended we ask for representation on the taskforce and suggested we should be observers rather than voting members. Lehrer noted that formal, unconditional involvement can be a trap, in that if we do participate that can be then used by Pres. Christian to say there was UUP consultation & approval. McNitt suggested we should participate in the taskforce in an official capacity, and speculated that there might be some benefit to actually participating rather than merely observing. Capowski ventured that actually participating might not be appropriate due to the nature of the taskforce and its mission. Wilson urged we proceed cautiously whatever we do, lest our participation backfire on us in some way. To get a sense of the committee's views, Brown asked for a show of hands as to whether the chapter should be involved formally (i.e., actually participate) or informally (merely observe without a vote). The vote was seven to four in favor of informal participation.

New Business:

Brown has forwarded recommendations to UUP regarding who should serve on its committees. All members (except Alan Dunefsky) presently serving on UUP committees will remain on them. Recommendations involved only newly elected members.

Nyquist noted that, though our librarians are academics, the chapter's VP for Academics have never paid a single visit to the librarians. It was her opinion that, as the union appeared to have given up on librarians, the librarians seem to have returned the favor and given up on the union. Brown pointed out that many groups feel neglected by the union, not just librarians. However, he assured her that he and Miller will gladly meet with the librarians as soon as they are invited.

Aspengren indicated she's been working with adjuncts to help them apply for unemployment benefits this summer. The NYS Department of Labor office in Kingston has been particularly helpful in this effort. Also, she and newly elected VP Felton will be working closely together to ensure a smooth transition.

Brown stated he would like to meet this summer to begin developing both the chapter's priorities for the next two years and a related strategic plan. July 16 was proposed for such a meeting. Fallek made a motion to approve the idea; seconded by Smith. Motion was voted on and approved. Brown also reminded everyone that he will be hosting a brunch for professionals at his home in July.

A proposed schedule of Executive Committee meetings for the Fall semester will be sent to committee members shortly for review/approval.

Upcoming events:

Workshop for Professionals – June 24 in SUB100
Strategic Planning Session – July 16, Mohonk Visitors Center, 9.15 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hanley
Chapter Secretary