

## **UUP New Paltz Chapter – Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

11:00 am September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### **In Attendance:**

*Executive Committee members:* Peter Brown, Linda Smith, Jeff Miller, Ed Felton, Rachel Rigolino, Shannon Roddy, Glenn McNitt, Richard Kelder, Beth Wilson, Donna Goodman, Joshua Simons, Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro, Ed Hanley.

*Other participants:* LRS William Capowski; Chapter Administrator Mary Thompson

*Other members/guests:* none

Proposed agenda for the day's meeting approved as submitted. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting on 6/30/11 were approved previously.

### **President's Report:**

President Brown asked chapter officers to submit their reports in advance (via email) so they can be reviewed by Executive Committee members prior to meetings. Having appointed Grievance Officer Rigolino as editor of the Bullhorn, Brown asked for the committee's endorsement of this appointment; it did so unanimously. Brown reminded everyone of the upcoming visit by UUP President Phil Smith to our next chapter meeting. He then briefly recounted the visit he and several other chapter officers & members made to examine the post-flood conditions in both HAB and the SUB firsthand. The union has requested both an inspection of conditions in these buildings by an outside agency and a town hall meeting to inform residents of what's been done to remediate the effects of the flooding. Both are expected to be forthcoming.

Brown reminded everyone that the "space available tuition" benefit will remain in effect even though that provision of the contract has officially "sunset." He then noted that he is attempting to visit all departments on campus to meet with our members. He pointed out that it would not be inappropriate for other chapter officers to do so as well. Lastly, he asked that the order of the agenda be changed so that "new business" could be addressed before "old business." As no objections were raised, the order was changed accordingly.

### **Officer Reports:**

**VP Smith:** has been distributing the UUP "Guide for Professional Employees." She has received a considerable amount of positive feedback, both on the effort to make this information more widely available as well as on the quality of the information contained in the guide itself.

**VP Miller:** provided a handout for the committee's review and asked for feedback on the content by week's end. The handout is intended to increase awareness regarding what the union does for its members and what they, in turn, can do for the union. Goodman suggested that, as far as the layout is concerned, information about salaries and working conditions should appear right at the top due to its importance. Information about

benefits and other perks should appear below that. Brown asked Miller to continue working on the mentoring initiative and stated that Provost Torsney appears supportive of the idea. He suggested that Miller's immediate objective should be to develop a proposal which can be formally presented to the administration so it can be considered for campus wide implementation. Smith, Engel-Di Mauro, and Kelder offered to assist Miller with the mentoring initiative as time permits. Smith pointed out that a mentoring effort for professionals would also make sense.

**VP Felton:** indicated that the space available tuition waiver was the first official issue he dealt with upon taking office. He's received very positive feedback from the members involved and further stated that chapter efforts to ensure the continued availability of this benefit have created a very favorable impression of union. Felton also indicated that the "teaching log project" is ongoing. There are now eight participants, and the information gathered should be quite useful to the Part Time Concerns Committee (PTCC). The committee currently consists of Aspengren, Dunefsky, Engel-Di Mauro, Wilson, and Felton. Priorities and concerns include: working with the new Provost; bringing work on the Lecturer appointment process to completion; working with non-renewed part-time faculty, and adjunct compensation. Committee meetings will be held at least every three to four weeks. Hopefully this will allow for greater participation by the membership. The first PTCC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 9/28 and a social event for part timers is tentatively planned for 9/27/11.

**Treasurer Roddy:** stated that the chapter's financial records have now been transferred from former treasurer Dunefsky's PC to her own. The chapter's finances will be audited next week. She will issue the chapter finance report at the end of the month after the reconciliation is complete.

**Grievance Officer Rigolino:** was informed by Brown of the committee's unanimous endorsement of her appointment as editor of the Bullhorn. In that capacity, she asked the committee to email her with the dates for any upcoming events so they can be published in the Bullhorn. Brown asked that she follow up with Mr. Brooks regarding (hardcopy) publication of the Bullhorn and indicated that he can assist her if needed. Rigolino recognized the excellent work Capowski is doing with respect to helping resolve member issues. There are approximately eight issues now in various stages of resolution and it appears none will progress to the point where formal action will be required. Capowski observed that, though we have been able to resolve most issues rather informally, that does not reflect a lack of serious issues. In fact, he continues to receive a constant stream of queries from members wanting information about situations confronting them. Kelder noted that over the past two years, he personally noticed a gradual increase in the number of members contacting the union for assistance.

### **New Business:**

Brown asked the committee to propose agenda items for the next Labor-Management meeting. He is of the opinion that the agenda should be set by the committee rather than

by him exclusively. Numerous items were suggested and discussed. The list will be pared down to five or six items and a draft agenda will be sent via email for review.

### **Old Business:**

Brown discussed this summer's Strategic Planning retreat. No formal plan was or will be produced as a result of the retreat. Rather, four broad areas of focus that will now help guide the chapter's efforts were identified: membership development, communications, political action, and community outreach/coalition building. These areas of focus do not precisely correspond with the chapter's current committee structure (Affirmative Action, Communications, Legislative, Women's Rights and Concerns, and Part-Time Concerns). Therefore, Brown proposed the creation of a new committee – "Community Outreach" - on which Williams-Meyers and Goodman would serve. Proposal was seconded by Goodman and approved unanimously. Brown then proposed that Goodman chair the committee. Proposal was seconded by Kelder and approved unanimously.

Capowski revisited a point discussed at the Strategic Planning retreat. He observed that, when the chapter has an opportunity to do something on behalf of a member, it also has an opportunity to ask that member to become involved in work/activities of the chapter. It is important to capitalize on these opportunities and actively reach out to the members.

Kelder voiced the opinion that, while Phil Smith will update us on events in Albany at our upcoming chapter meeting, we should also ensure we inform members about issues on our own campus. We must not lose sight of our own situation here in New Paltz because we are focusing on/distracted by the big picture in Albany.

Lastly, there was a brief discussion about the need to educate our own members on a variety of union-related issues so as to increase their awareness of why unions, unionism, and activism continue to be important.

### **Upcoming events:**

September 9<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting about the recent flooding; 9:30 – 11:00 SUB100

September 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, 11:00 – 12:30

September 21<sup>st</sup> Labor-Management Meeting, 4:00

September 23-24 UUP Fall Delegate Assembly in Albany

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Part-timer oriented social at Bacchus (tentative)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hanley  
Chapter Secretary