

UUP New Paltz Chapter – Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

11:00 am October 5th, 2011

In Attendance:

Executive Committee: Peter Brown, Linda Smith, Ed Felton, Richard Kelder, Shannon Roddy, Susan Lehrer, John Hain, Maryalice Citera, Josh Simons, Jerry Persaud, LRS William Capowski, Chapter Assistant Mary Thompson, Ed Hanley

Chapter members/guests: Alison Nash

Brown wished to add an additional item of “new business” not reflected on the proposed agenda. No objections were raised; agenda approved as amended. Minutes of the 090721 Executive Committee meeting approved as amended.

Officers’ Reports:

(Note: most officer reports were distributed via email in advance of the meeting. Discussion centered on asking/answering questions about those reports.)

President Brown: provided information about his recent visits to departments in response to a question by Kelder. According to Brown, the reception varies by department; all are cordial but enthusiasm and interest differs. Kelder asked if any issues have been identified during those visits. Per Brown, “workload” has been raised consistently. Lehrer asked if the issue(s) raised are being documented. Brown indicated he’s asked chairs to follow up in writing when concerns are raised during the meetings. Noting that a new edition of “The Bullhorn” is being readied for publication, Brown asked for the committee’s sense on whether or not Excom minutes should be included. Kelder and VP Smith suggested it might be more appropriate to make them available online rather than in “The Bullhorn.”

VP Smith: stated she would be doing a walkthrough of the Humanities Building later that day in response to the continuing concerns over mold. Apparently, at least one member is experiencing serious health issues and has been offered an office in another building. Unfortunately, that member still has to teach in the ground floor classrooms and thus remains exposed to the mold.

VP Miller: not present; no questions about his report.

VP Felton: reminded all of the dates for this year’s “Campus Equity Week” (24th-30th) and the upcoming CCC-sponsored social (18th). No questions about his report.

Treasurer Roddy: gave a brief overview of her report and indicated she’ll be asking former treasurer Dunefsky for additional information about last year’s chapter budget.

Grievance Officer Rigolino: not present; no report available.

Secretary Hanley: nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Contingent Concerns: Felton stated the committee's report had been previously distributed by email. There were no questions about that report.

Women's Rights and Concerns: Citera stated the committee had not yet met, but was in the process of scheduling a date for the first meeting.

Affirmative Action: Persaud stated the committee's first meeting will be Friday, 10/14. He asked everyone to help spread the word about that meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Brown solicited agenda items for the 10/19 Labor-Management meeting. Several were quickly suggested, including workload, parking, mentoring, DSI, and the mandatory training that adjuncts must undergo but for which they are not compensated.

Secretary Hanley asked Excom members present at the last Labor-Management meeting if he had correctly summarized President Christian's remarks about UUP representation on the forthcoming workload task force. Those members confirmed that he had. Citera stated that the union has a vested interest in being properly represented. LRS Capowski advised that, union preferences notwithstanding, Christian is free to consult with whomever he likes about workload. However, we must reserve the right to review any resulting task force recommendations. Felton noted that even though UUP members will serve on the task force, they neither represent the union nor can they convey its official view(s) on workload issues to the task force. Lehrer suggested the chapter contact the academics on the task force (when known) and make that clear to them. Brown pointed out that the workload of professionals must also be looked at, not just that of academics. Citera noted those workloads are closely intertwined and offered an example to support her contention. Kelder concurred, citing a further example. Simons too concurred, suggesting that some means of measuring the workload of professionals - similar to the one proposed for academics - must be developed. Brown indicated that he and Capowski have considered meeting with the administration on a regular basis in a separate forum to discuss workload. Citera made a motion to set up an ad hoc committee on workload that could inform any such discussions. Motion seconded by Smith and approved unanimously. Citera, Smith, Kelder, and Nash will comprise the committee.

Brown outlined a plan to hire a student intern to assist the chapter. As no UUP chapter has ever done this, he ran the idea past the UUP leadership in Albany for comment; they will solicit the opinion of the Statewide Executive Board. Brown asked for the committee's sense on whether or not the chapter should to continue pursuing this initiative. Kelder made a motion to continue exploring the possibility of bringing a student intern onboard in 2012. Motion seconded by Citera and approved unanimously.

Brown told the committee that a member had contacted him about issuing a statement of support for the “Occupy Wall Street” movement. Kelder supported the idea, but recommended a broader discussion take place first. Simons too supported the idea, but suggested we first determine what the official NYSUT and UUP positions are. Felton suggested it would be a mistake to put off making a decision about issuing a position. Lehrer, pointing out that there’s always time to wait but not always enough time to act, suggested that now was the time to figure out how to support this. Brown asked if anyone would be willing to draft a statement of support; Hanley accepted the task. Kelder made a motion, seconded by Hanley, that a statement of support for the Occupy Wall Street movement be drafted by Hanley and then sent out by Brown for the committee’s consideration. Motion passed with one abstention.

Upcoming events:

- Oct 18 Contingent Concerns Committee Social, 5:00 p.m. at Bacchus
- Oct 19 Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m. in JFT 1010
- Oct 19 Academics’ Workshop, noon in JFT 1010
- Oct 19 Labor Management meeting, 4:00 p.m. in HAB
- Oct 21/22 UUP New Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown, NY.
- Oct 24-30 Campus Equity Week, nationwide
- Oct 25 Membership Development Committee, 8:30 a.m. in SAB 208
- Oct 26 Interim Provost’s Forum on Tenure, 8:30 a.m. in LC104
- Oct 26 Contingent Concerns Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- Oct 27 Part-Time Labor Management meeting, 11:00 a.m in HAB 802
- Nov 2 Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m. in JFT 1010
- Nov 9 Contingent Concerns Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- Nov 15 Labor-Management meeting, 4:00 p.m. in HAB
- Nov 16 Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m. in JFT 1010
- Nov 30 Part-Time Labor-Management meeting, 10:00 a.m. in HAB 802
- Nov 30 Contingent Concerns Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- Nov 30 Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m. in LC6A.
- Dec 7 Contingent Concerns Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- Dec 16 Labor Management meeting, 4:00 p.m. in HAB
- Dec 14 Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m. in LC6A.
- Feb 3–4 Winter Delegate Assembly, Albany, NY.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hanley
Chapter Secretary