



MINUTES

UUP Binghamton Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., UUW 324

Present: M. Allington, S. Atav, H. Borruso, S. Capobianco, B. Cornick, L. Fuller, L. Gallagher, F. Goldman, J. Goldman, K. Heard, P. Knuepfer, D. Kunkel, S. L’Hommedieu, S. Massey, B. McGovern, R. Mess, R. Pompei, N. Robinson, B. Roth, D. Stone, A. Uhlig, A. Wang

Guests: D. Wood, Labor Relations Specialist, J. Helin, Chapter Organizer, A. Hickey, AFT, M. Gunter, M.S. Whittingham

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m. Chapter President Sean Massey welcomed Executive Board members and guests to the March 11, 2020, Executive Board Meeting.

1. Approve Minutes from February 12, 2020, Executive Board Meeting – attached Robert Mess **MOVED TO APPROVE** the February 12, 2020, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. **SECONDED** by Donald Kunkel. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
2. Pass the Hat for the Sunshine Fund.
The Sunshine Fund was set up to use for purposes that would not be covered by the Chapter Allocation, such as get well gifts and retirement gifts. The Executive Board has been passing the hat for the last six years. It is voluntary and up to members if they want to contribute or not. \$41.00 was collected at the March 11, 2020, meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report (Joe):
 - a. Approval of Monthly Financial Report for February 2020 – attached Treasurer Joseph Goldman reviewed the February 2020 report. Robert Mess **MOVED TO APPROVE** the February 2020 Treasurer’s Report. **SECONDED** by Peter Knuepfer. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
 - b. Discussion/approval of FY2020 budget request, due by March 15
Treasurer Joseph Goldman explained that this time every year UUP Central asks for a description of how we plan to budget our allocation for the following fiscal year. Joe reviewed the request, stating that some expenses have increased: Executive Board Meeting Luncheons, more outreach activities, an increase in hours for the Chapter Assistant, etc. Joe was asked why agency fee expenses are listed on the budget request. He explained that basically it is a miscellaneous expense and although he had originally removed the expense, UUP Central asked that it be included. Benita Roth **MOVED TO APPROVE** the FY 2020 budget request. **SECONDED** by Robert Mess. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
4. Chapter Officers’ Report:
 - a. Vice-President, Professionals (Don)

Vice-President for Professionals, Donald Kunkel reported that he is meeting with Vice President JoAnn Navarro today regarding the University's position on the coronavirus. Donald added there are three new petitions to the College Review Panel and they are coming in fast and furious. He stated that in previous years there might have been one or none. Donald explained that people stepped forward during the hiring pause, did the work and now they are raising their hands. Donald reported the Individual Development Award Committee met this week and is moving forward with 99% of the awards. IDA Committee member Serdar Atav added the letters are out and there are 64 at the moment but the number might change. He explained it was very competitive with quite a few people applying. A lot of very well written requests were received and the Committee did it's best to distribute the money as equitably as possible.

b. Vice-President, Academics (Benita)

Vice-President for Academics, Benita Roth reported that it has been a busy month with members coming to her with unresolved issues, especially in one school at the University regarding terms and conditions of employment.

c. Officer for Contingents (Renee)

Officer for Contingents, Renee Andrews did not attend the meeting, so no report was given.

d. Officer for Retirees (Bob)

Officer for Retirees, Bob Pompei reported there will be a retiree luncheon on June 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the Events Center. Professor of Psychology Pat DiLorenzo will be speaking on taste and cooking. He hopes Chapter President Sean Massey will be able to attend.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Membership & Outreach Committee Reports (Don, Alan, Brendan, Jordan)

Brendan McGovern reported there was a rally inside and outside of the Library Building near Jazzman's on March 10. This was held in an effort to get the State to put more money into the budget for education. He explained the rally was informative and people were asked to sign postcards that will be sent to the Governor. Brendan encouraged Board members to sign a postcard and asked them to take five back to their individual areas for signatures. Sean asked Board members to return the signed postcards to his office by Friday. Brendan stated Dan Brown offered to pay for postage expenses. Sean suggested the Chapter mail the postcards and then submit a request for reimbursement. Jordan added there wasn't much resistance seen at the rally but suggested Board members not say "Hey do you have a minute," but rather "Hey we are asking people to sign postcards in order to put more money into higher education and SUNY."

b. Contingent Committee Reports (Brendan, Benita, Denise, Renee, Nikita)

Brendan McGovern reported the committee has discussed hosting an event off campus. Sean suggested the creation of some type of online discussion with contingents.

c. Newsletter Committee Report (Lori, Mac, Katie)

Lori Fuller reported we are a couple of days beyond our target date of March 9th for submission of articles. She added that Katie is no longer working on the

newsletter, and Elivia Graves has agreed to assist. Lori stated that nine articles have been received, and she thinks the chapter is going to have a pretty good newsletter. A membership card will be printed on the back of the newsletter.

- d. IDA Committee (Don, Serdar, Stuart, Sarah, Joe, Nikita)
This item was discussed in the report of the Vice-President for Professionals.

6. President's Report:

- a. Announcement: Spring 2020 Delegate Assembly will be held on April 24-25 at the Desmond in Albany (RSVP to Linda by March 24)
Sean reported he spoke with Fred Kowal regarding the Spring Delegate Assembly and the possible cancellation of this event is still up in the air. He asked that Executive Board members RSVP to Linda by March 24. Sean added that at this point, the Leadership Conference has not been cancelled but it looks like it is going to be and possibly replaced with a webinar.
- b. Report: Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Leave Program applications
Sean reported that four applications were sent. He added they were good, strong applications. The chapter has done well in the past, and he imagines it will do well again.
- c. Report: Beat the Winter Blues (Wednesday, February 19)
Sean reported the event was well attended and everyone seemed in good spirits. He thanked Linda for her assistance.
- d. Report: Tips on Getting Tenure Workshop (Wednesday, February 26)
Sean reported the Workshop was very successful with twelve attendees receiving information on the tenure process. Sean, Benita, Serdar and Neil Christian presented.
- e. Report: Union Representatives Meeting (Wednesday, February 26)
Sean reported the first Union Representatives Meeting went really well. Chapter Organizer, Jordan Helin added the Chapter has 39 representatives and 24 attended the meeting. He is reaching out to representatives that were unable to attend. Clipboard boxes will be distributed to all representatives, which includes stickers, membership /renewal cards, pens, a list of people they are responsible for, etc. Jordan explained that ideally the ratio would be one representative to ten employees. As there are not enough representatives, some will be asked to be responsible for more than one department. If Board members know of people that might be interested in becoming a union representative, please let Jordan know. Mac Gunter suggested the union prepare standard posters for all of the UUP bulletin boards on campus, which could include information on Chapter leadership, benefit information, etc. These posters could be updated yearly or as needed. Lori and Mac agreed to assist. Sean added that according to the contract, the University must provide UUP with bulletin board space for every unit on campus. President Stenger supported this at the fall Labor Management Meeting.
- f. Report: Campus Rally re: State Budget (Tuesday, March 10)
This item was discussed in the Membership & Outreach Committee Reports.

7. Chapter Business:

a. Discussion: Campus response to COVID-19

Sean reported there have been many discussions regarding COVID-19 and what the university is doing. He added that a meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. today with JoAnn Navarro and the UUP chapter leadership to discuss the virus. Sean explained he reached out to Fred Kowal for guidance prior to this meeting. Fred assured him that SUNY is taking the issue seriously and is responding to UUP. UUP is pursuing clearly around contractual rights, work environments, and safety. UUP Statewide should know by the end of the week if the Spring Delegate Assembly and Leadership Conference will be held. Binghamton University and SUNY are asking many to engage in prep work for going online, which is easy for some but an enormous amount of work for those who have never taught online. Discussion followed regarding extra compensation for an increased workload, who are considered essential employees, what considerations are being made for senior citizens and those with existing health conditions, how will adjuncts teach online, etc. As professional employees make up approximately 50% of UUP members at Binghamton University, what considerations are being made for them? Technical professionals and other staff will be asked to assist with online technology, how will employees be protected? Darryl Wood explained there are two types of essential employees and stressed we need to be clear about that distinction. He added if an individual is directed to work someplace else, there is no charge to leave credits. If they are sick, they use sick leave. If they are caring for a sick family member, they use family sick leave. It appears the Faculty Senate has been in communication with the administration, but the Professional Staff Senate has not. It was suggested the Professional Staff Senate request an emergency meeting with the administration to put forth their concerns. Sean invited members of the Professional Staff Senate, Robert Mess and Brendan McGovern to join the chapter leadership at the 2 p.m. meeting, which will be held in AD 606. It was suggested that professional employees document everything they are doing. Darryl Wood added that UUP and SUNY representatives are having a labor management conversation regarding issues on Friday, so things may become clearer after that.

b. Other issues, concerns, and/or labor/management agenda items

Bob Pompei announced that he attended the UUP cosponsored Harpur Dean's Lecture, which was held yesterday. He added that approximately 85 people attended and Sean spoke about the union, academic scholarship and what goes on at Binghamton University. Bob stated that Sean did a great job, and he was impressed with his remarks. Darryl Wood added the creation of the Harpur Dean's Lecture Series was Bob Pompei's idea way back when.

8. Celebrate the accomplishments of our union brother Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham! Sean welcomed Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham to the March Executive Board Meeting. He congratulated Dr. Whittingham's amazing accomplishments and his representation of BU, the union and all of our colleagues. Sean added there is probably nothing more of a pinnacle in terms of accomplishment than a Nobel Prize. Sean stated that he is honored to know Stan and to be part of an organization that he is a member. Sean read a resolution the Executive Board passed and presented it to Stan. The resolution follows:

*CONGRATULATING DR. M. STANLEY WHITTINGHAM
ON RECEIVING THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY*

WHEREAS Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham has been a faculty member of UUP for his entire thirty-one-year career at Binghamton University, and is currently a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, and Materials Science and Engineering; and

WHEREAS Dr. Whittingham has not only been a UUP member but has been an active participant of the Binghamton UUP Chapter, serving as a member of the Chapter Executive Board and as a Delegate from 2003 to 2013; and

WHEREAS Dr. Whittingham has won the 2019 Nobel Prize for his work on lithium-ion batteries, which we all use every day and whose development takes us closer to a sustainable energy future; and

WHEREAS Dr. Whittingham shows that academic excellence of the highest order and union activism can and should easily combine in the lives of UUP members; and

WHEREAS his excellence and activism allow all of us to feel great about BU, UUP, and the mission of public higher education; be it

RESOLVED that the Binghamton Chapter of UUP congratulates Dr. Whittingham on winning the Nobel Prize, thanks him for his service to UUP, and wishes it to be known how happy we are for him as a person, colleague and union brother.

Dr. Whittingham thanked the Executive Board, explained how he became involved with UUP and talked about his experiences in Stockholm, where he received the Nobel Prize. He showed the Board a gold plated replica of his medal, noting the solid gold original is in the bank. He advised the Board not to go to any big gatherings, to carry hand sanitizers, to keep well, and to enjoy themselves. All Executive Board members and guests stood and applauded Dr. Whittingham.

9. Adjourn
Robert Mess **MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED** by Stephen Capobianco.
Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in UUW-324.