

UUP New Paltz Chapter – Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

11:00 am December 14, 2011

Attendees:

Executive Committee: Peter Brown, Jeff Miller, Ed Felton, Shannon Roddy, Jerry Persaud, Glenn McNitt, Richard Kelder, Susan Lehrer, John Hain, Alan Dunefsky, Donna Goodman, Yvonne Aspengren, Beth Wilson, LRS William Capowski, Chapter Assistant Mary Thompson, Ed Hanley

Chapter members/guests: Abigail Robin, Corinne Nyquist, Spencer Salend

Proposed agenda adopted as submitted. Minutes of the 113011 Executive Committee meeting approved as submitted.

Officers' Reports: (distributed via email before the meeting)

President Brown: no questions about his report.

VP Smith: not present; no questions about her report. On Smith's behalf, Secretary Hanley asked if the Committee would approve funds to host the planned visit by UUP VP for Professionals Abraham. Per President Brown, such approval is not needed as funds for the purpose are already available in the chapter budget.

VP Miller: nothing to report. Affirmative Action Officer Persaud asked how members of a department experiencing major issues could seek union assistance. Miller suggested the affected members contact either himself, Grievance Officer Rigolino, or President Brown. Brown pointed out that while there is no "one-size-fits-all" response, chapter officers would typically meet with the affected member(s), listen to the issues, assess the situation, and provide feedback on how best to proceed. Nyquist invited Miller to meet with the librarians to discuss plans for the new library.

VP Felton: will be working with members of the Contingent Concerns Committee to develop their agenda for the Spring semester.

Treasurer Roddy: pointed out that we need to hold a general membership meeting before March to gain our member's approval of the chapter's budget request to UUP for the coming fiscal year. Brown proposed February 29th for the meeting and asked Chapter Assistant Thomson to set it up. There was a discussion of the chapter's certificates of deposit (CD's). Dunefsky provided some rationale on why the chapter has two CD's of differing amounts rather than a single CD (this allows the chapter to quickly access funds from the smaller CD if necessary without jeopardizing the interest on the larger amount). Wilson made a motion to roll over the current six month CD and then convert it to a 12 month CD in June; seconded by Dunefsky. Motion passed unanimously.

Grievance Officer Rigolino: not present. McNitt expressed serious concern about an item in her report. Specifically, that she had gone to Human Resources with a member who requested her presence while the member reviewed his/her personnel file. At the

last minute, she was not allowed into the room with the member. McNitt observed that the union had never been excluded in this manner before and suggested that chapter strongly protest this development.

Affirmative Action Officer Persaud: combined his report with that of the Affirmative Action Committee (see below).

Secretary Hanley: nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Affirmative Action: Persaud noted the committee is short on members and asked for everyone's help in identifying people who might be interested in serving. Persaud recently met with UUP reps from SUNY Oneonta to discuss the possibility of holding a state-wide conference to assess the overall affirmative action climate within SUNY. The conference would be held at New Paltz. Kelder opined that this was an important initiative. Wilson made a motion to invite Persaud to participate in the upcoming Delegate Assembly as an observer, as doing so might help him advance the initiative. Motion was seconded and then approved unanimously.

Community Outreach/Coalition Building: Goodman gave a brief overview of her November 15th meeting with local area labor leaders. She also made a motion that the chapter invite a rep from the Central Labor Council and/or Area Labor Federation to our next Executive Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Kelder and approved unanimously. Brown asked Goodman to extend the invitation(s).

Contingent Concerns: nothing to report.

Legislation/Political Action: Per McNitt, the committee was unable to meet in early December as planned. Meeting is being rescheduled; new date not yet selected.

Membership Development: members have been talking informally, but a formal committee meeting is planned after the 1st of the year. Abigail Robin volunteered to serve on the committee.

Women's Rights and Concerns: Goodman asked if including "Women's Studies" on the agenda for the next Labor-Management meeting was contrary to the understanding that the issues involved would be brought up in Labor-Management after the Women's Studies advisory committee had taken them to the administration. Brown indicated he had discussed this with Amy Kesselman and she was OK with leaving the topic on the agenda for the upcoming Labor-Management meeting.

Old Business: dates/times for the Executive Committee's Spring meetings are not yet finalized and the issue remains open.

New Business:

Request by students to support their petition to extend operating hours in the Sojourner Truth Library: in view of the Provost's recent announcement that library hours operating hours would be extended, Kelder made a motion to table the issue and invite the involved students to clarify their position in view of the changed situation. Motion seconded by Dunefsky and approved unanimously.

Proposal to join New Paltz Chamber of Commerce: as there appeared to be no consensus on the issue after considerable discussion, Wilson moved to table the discussion. Motion was seconded by Dunefsky and approved unanimously.

Request from Julie Gorewski (Secondary Ed.) to support initiative by "Educators Unite!": Salend recommended deferring any discussion of the issue until Gorewski herself could attend and participate. Recommendation notwithstanding, an informal discussion of the politics behind the issue then ensued although no action(s) by the committee were taken or envisioned as a result.

Wilson asked about the status of Individual Development Awards (IDA) and Discretionary Salary Increases (DSI). Per Miller, evaluation of IDAs was to begin shortly with the results released in January. Per Brown, VP DiStefano would be releasing the guidance on DSI.

Upcoming events:

Jan 19 visit by UUP VP for Professionals Abraham, details TBA
Feb 3-4 Winter Delegate Assembly, Albany, NY.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hanley
Chapter Secretary