

# Meeting Minutes

## Meeting Information

**Meeting Date/Time:** 2020/04/29, 12:00-13:00

**Meeting Purpose:** UUP Executive Board Meeting

**Meeting Location:** Virtually with the chapter's Zoom software

**Note Taker:** Jeff Heinz

## Agenda (summary)

1. Call to Order
2. Approve EB Minutes from 02/25/2020 and 04/09/2020
3. Chapter President Release Time Application
4. Chapter Assistant additional hours
5. Financial decisions & E-board role
6. Chapter Priorities: Strategic plan
7. Proposal for Procedural Policy for Filling a Vacated Chapter Officer Position
8. Resolution: UUP Stony Brook West Campus Chapter Resolution against Anti-Asian Harassment in light of the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic prepared by the Diversity Committee
9. Resolution: UUP West Campus Chapter at Stony Brook University Stands in Solidarity with its Graduate Students
10. Proposal for Procedural Policy for Time-Sensitive Resolutions
11. Review of Officer Reports
12. New Business
13. Adjournment

## Notation

The note

[APPROVED]

means a vote was taken and there was no dissent. If there is dissent, a vote count will be provided.

## Attendees

Asterisks indicate voting members of the board.

Abena Asare\*, Dominique Barone, Diane Bello\*, Alissa Betz, Richard Burton, Paula DiPasquale-Alvarez\*, Jacqueline Donnelly, Josh Dubnau, David Ecker, Crystal Fleming\*, Paul Fodor, Georges Fouron, Nancy Gaugler, Jeffrey Heinz\*, Odalis Hernandez, Shoshana Hershowitz\*, Jennifer Jokinen\*, Richard Laskowski, Sophie LeRoy, Kenneth Lindblom, Pamela Matzner, Charles McAteer\*, Kevin Moriarty, Laura Pellizzi, Joseph Pierce, Ed Quinn\*, John Shackelford, Andrew Solar-Greco, Francesca Spedalieri, Diana Tischler, Nancy Tomes\*, Jason Torre, Frederick Walter, Lisa Willis, Pam Wolfskill\*, Charles Wrigley\*, Michael Zweig\*.

## 1. Call to Order

[Quinn calls the meeting to order at 12:03pm.]

## **2. Adopt Agenda**

Hershowitz requests that a letter prepared by the contingent committee be added to the agenda between items #10 and #11.

Jokinen moves that item #5 on the agenda be moved to after the contingent letter since the other items appear to take priority.

## **2. Approve EB Minutes from physical 02/25/2020 meeting and virtual 04/08/2020 meeting.**

[APPROVED]

## **3. Chapter President Release Time Application**

Quinn explains the basic elements of his application.

Dubnau says this is a very strong application and addresses both ongoing activities of union growth and organizing as well as developments of new mechanisms to increase UUP influence in decision-making in the face of the current covid crisis and anticipated forthcoming budget crisis.

[APPROVED]

## **4. Chapter Assistant additional hours**

Quinn explains that every six months, the executive board is required to revisit and approve the hours for the chapter assistant (Diana Tischler).

Dubnau says that the chapter assistant continues to provide invaluable service both in the past and in during the current crisis. He notes she often goes beyond the call of duty, responding to emails after normal hours, and following up on loose email threads.

Solar-Greco agrees, and also points out that any cutting of paid chapter personnel at this moment would also send exactly the wrong message given the budget woes higher ed is facing.

[APPROVED]

## **(#5.) Financial decisions & E-board role**

[moved to later]

## **#5. Chapter Priorities: Strategic Plan (was #6)**

Quinn opens the floor for discussion on the Strategic Plan.

[No discussion]

## **6. Proposal for Procedural Policy for Filling a Vacated Chapter Officer Position (was #7)**

Heinz explains that this is not a revision to the by-laws but instead a procedural policy the board will adopt in order to better explain how a vacated officer position will be filled. It is to address problems that arose with the filling of the vacated VPA and Secretary positions earlier this year.

[APPROVED]

## **7. Resolution: UUP Stony Brook West Campus Chapter Resolution against Anti-Asian Harassment in light of the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic (was #8)**

Pierce explains that the resolution was motivated by surge of racism and harassment against the Asian community on campus, on Long Island, in NYC, in NY, and across the nation, and reads its content. It is also displayed with screen-sharing technology.

Zweig asks about the incidents on campus that are referred to in the resolution. Spedialieri refers members to a Quarantine Diary report by UUP member Jeffery Santa Ana which describes and discusses some of these incidents.

Hernandez emphasizes the importance of showing our community what we stand for.

Quinn calls for a vote on whether the exec board adopts the resolution.

[APPROVED]

Quinn calls for a vote on whether the resolution should be submitted to the statewide DA.

[APPROVED] to go to DA

## **8. Resolution: UUP West Campus Chapter at Stony Brook University Stands in Solidarity with its Graduate Students (was #9)**

Heinz explains the proposal was motivated because the administration is planning to increase graduate student fees by \$148 in Fall 2020, even though they already pay over \$2000/year in fees and are facing hardship and uncertainty due to the crisis. The proposal takes the opportunity to stand with graduate students and their union representation.

Zweig recommends that occurrences of the term “Stony Brook University” be changed to “SUNY Stony Brook” since the term “Stony Brook University” expresses a privatization of the university we should not accept.

Dubnau asks whether this should also go to the statewide DA. At issue is whether the fee increase is specific to Stony Brook or more general. Heinz explains this particular fee increase is specific to Stony Brook but that some of the other fees do hold across SUNY campuses. So this resolution would require additional modifications before being submitted to statewide.

Quinn calls for a vote on whether the exec board adopts the resolution.

[APPROVED]

Quinn calls for a vote on whether the resolution should be submitted to the statewide DA once it is revised suitably.

[APPROVED]

## 9. Proposal for Procedural Policy for Time-Sensitive Resolutions (was #10)

Spedialieri lets Heinz present the policy. Heinz explains that the executive board a one hour meeting of the executive board every month does not always allow a timely response to quickly developing events. While the president and a majority of the executive board can call for additional board meetings, this procedural policy provides a structured mechanism for considering resolutions electronically.

McAteer expresses a concern that amendments to resolutions need to be approved by the board not by the author of the resolution. Quinn seconds this concern.

Heinz explains that board-approved amendments are possible during synchronous board meetings like the one we are having now, but this policy is designed for *asynchronous* discussion and voting of time-sensitive resolutions. If a board member want to propose an amendment during the discussion period, it won't be possible for the rest of the board to vote on it because the rest of the board may not be on at the same time. If

Quinn asks whether this means the vote taken will be an up-or-down vote on the resolution, and Heinz confirms. Heinz reiterates that if the board feels strongly about a modification or amendment to the resolution that the author is not willing to adopt then board should vote down the resolution, and put forward a new resolution with the new language and restart the process.

McAteer asks whether the a majority of voting members of the board is required, as written, or whether a majority voting of the voting members present, assuming a quorum.

Zweig says that as written a majority of voting members of the board is required is best because it is the more stringent requirement. During asynchronous discussion, we may never have a quorum of people meeting at the same time. Heinz confirms Zweig's rationale and says the more stringent requirement of a majority of the board ensures avoids the issue related to counting who "is present" during an asynchronous process and ensures that passed resolutions always reflect a true majority.

Zweig asks whether the policy means that discussion and voting periods can occur on weekends. Heinz explains as written 48 hours is not qualified to mean during the week. Asare suggests that weekends be excluded. Many members have families and we should not expect. Quinn concurs. Heinz agrees and policy being voted on will make clear that discussion and voting periods do not include weekends and holidays.

Heinz also asks the board to realize that this is not a revision to the bylaws and so can be changed easily. Let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We can try it out and we can change it if it is not working.

Quinn calls for a vote.

[APPROVED]

## 10. Contingent letter

Hershowitz explains that the number one concern among contingent faculty is whether they will have a job and health insurance in the fall. The difference between teaching 1 and 2 courses is the difference between not having health insurance and having it. So this is literally life or death for these people. Even in the best of times, contingent positions are uncertain, and that is so much more true now.

Zweig says this is why it is more important than ever that UUP continue to argue for Medicare for all, a position it adopted previously.

Hershowitz says she will refer the letter back to committee to rewrite as a resolution. She will present it to the board as a time-sensitive resolution soon using the procedural policy just adopted.

## **11. Financial decisions & E-board role (was #5)**

Jokinen notes the time and says that this discussion should be postponed until the next exec board meeting. Quinn asks that Jokinen prepare something in writing so the board understands the issues. Jokinen agrees.

## **12. Review of Officer Reports (was #11)**

Quinn asks whether any officers want to comment on their report.

Heinz says that the academic council is working on a variety of issues and one which deserves further consideration by the board is what principles should guide us as we face austerity. Please be thinking about that.

Solar-Greco announces that the online NEOs have been successful with a signing rate above 85%. He says that more and more people are asking about the union and showing interest in union activities. A membership drive is being planned for May.

## **13. New Business**

[No new business]

## **13. Adjournment**

[Quinn adjourns the meeting.]