

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Meeting Date/Time: 2020/05/28, 12:00-13:00

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Executive Board UUP SB West Chapter

Meeting Location: Virtually with Zoom

Note Takers: Jeff Heinz

Attendees

Ava Amrieh, Abena Asare*, Dominique Barone, Diane Bello*, Alissa Betz, Richard Burton, Paula Di-Pasquale-Alvarez*, James Doyle, Josh Dubnau, David Ecker, Crystal Fleming*, Paul Fodor, Nancy Gaugler, Jeffrey Heinz*, Odalis Hernandez, Shoshana Hershkowitz*, Jennifer Jokinen*, Richard Laskowski, Charles McAteer*, Liz Montegary, Joseph Pierce, Nirla Pierre, Ed Quinn*, Joseph Simonetti, Andrew Solar-Greco, Francesca Spedalieri, Diana Tischler, Jason Torre, Frederick Walter, Lisa Willis, Judith Wishnia*, Pamela Wolfskill*, Charles Wrigley*,

*Voting member of the executive board

Agenda (summary)

1. Call to Order
2. Approve previous EB Minutes
3. Secretary Appointment
4. Financial decisions & E-board role
5. Discussion of Re-opening Plans
6. Discussion of Statewide's Solidarity Pledge
7. Exclusion from Task Forces
8. Review of Officer Reports
9. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

[Quinn calls Meeting to Order]

2. Approve previous EB Minutes

[Approved]

3. Secretary Appointment

Quinn explains one person formally notified us of their interest prior to the 5 day policy. Another person notified us two days ago, which is after the deadline. How does the board want to proceed?

Asare moves to make an exception to the procedural policy.

[11-1 Passed]

The two interested persons are Jackie Donnelly and Jessica Armstrong. After confirming their absence, Quinn initiates discussion regarding the two interested persons.

[Donnelly and Armstrong discussion]

[12 Donnelly - 0 Armstrong]

Congratulations Donnelly! Many also express enthusiasm for Armstrong and hope she gets involved with chapter committees such as the communications committee and the membership committee.

McAteer says in the future this kind of voting should be done by secret ballot. Solar-Greco agrees. For Zoom meetings, we have to set them up in advance which we did not do this time. Next time we will be better prepared.

Hiring a UG student for doing graphical artwork

Spedieleri explains that Prof. Toby Buonagurio in Art suggested an undergrad to help prepare powerful visual art supporting our messages. We are asking for up to some amount \$500 to commission artwork.

[Approved]

4. Financial decisions & E-board role

Jokinen asks the executive board how it wants to handle non-routine expenses.

McAteer says we have to have a policy for approving extraordinary/unusual expenditures. Routine expenses are pre-approved by budgets that we pass. For isolated one-time expenses, we need to show that the the exec board approves it.

Quinn suggest we draft a procedural policy and present it at the next board meeting.

Torre says we should doublecheck the operations manual so that any policy we develop is in line with that. Jokinen says that she has drafted something based on that manual and wants to share it with folks.

Solar-Greco asks Jokinen, Torre, and McAteer and anyone else to work on it. They agree to get started.

5. Discussion of Re-opening Plans

Wolfskill reports on yesterday's university senate executive committee. Torre and Walter were also present. One idea discussed was to close campus around Thanksgiving and the last week would be online.

Walter thought the way Charlie stated it, it was not an option. The academic day would be expanded from 8am to 9pm M-F, so faculty will be asked to teach at times they may not normally want to teach.

Triples will be used for quarantine. Many transfer students are enrolling. They are not registering for classes. We are doing well in students coming back. They are expecting a full campus.

Torre said they were being proactive and reaching out. They have completely backed off the synchronous/asynchronous teaching. There is some recognition of faculty autonomy.

Dubnau says there are so many red flags. It was mentioned that they plan to hire outside companies to run final exams – that is the work of our faculty, that is union work. Terms of our employment are mandatory subjects of negotiation. So is health and safety. They can't double up students in rooms without consequences for health and safety.

Alvarez says she heard that Saturday classes may be added. If large classes move to an online format, this would help in 21-22 when Javits is closed for renovation. There also are likely to be cuts mid year of

unprecedented amounts. PCR forms were held up until yesterday. Another question is whether it is appropriate to rehire adjuncts if their class is moved to an online format. Many red flags and unions need to be in the room.

Fleming says many decisions are being made in the absence of scientific research. The administration should be systematically involving the union. They need to be transparent and we need to be united. She asks what we are going to do to escalate this over the next month.

Pierce fully agrees with Fleming. It's a question of process. The admin may feel that they are engaging faculty. Department chairs, however, are not a substitute for faculty involvement. At UT Austin, there is a similar situation. They were not expecting to have to teach in person on campus. It seems to me we are not being given an option to teach in person or not in person. We need to have that option. It is not only the fact of teaching students in classes. It is about commuting to campus on public transportation.

Barone says we have pushed this very hard at the meetings with Zicarese and at Labor Management meetings. They have one excuse after another. I would push for polling our members, I would poll students and administration. The CSEA president is also concerned about inadequate staffing to do all the cleaning that is expected. HR has yet to provide a good response to this. This is our lives. Many of us have lost lives in this already.

Solar-Greco explains the Labor Council is pushing on this too, they are actively meeting.

Walter says we need to think positively. We need to make positive suggestions to. If we are only negative, then we are going to be ignored. Fleming responds: it is not negative to ask the administration to uphold the terms of our contract.

Barone says that labor management has said that their job is to convey our requests but not to find answers to them. Barone says she explained that we want to be part of the solution. We don't want to be adversarial.

Wolfskill suggest Quinn writes to McInnis directly. Quinn says he will take it as a suggestion.

Torre agrees with much that has been said. At the senate meetings, we advocate for the administration to include UUP on the task forces. At the last meeting, McInnis led and set the tone, which is a good indicator. We want to be positive. There is an opportunity here.

Asare says we can create a poll for faculty and students about re-opening. This is important and urgent. Fleming has been raising this for weeks. We need to get information from our members about what people want to do, what they are comfortable with. This poll also helps bring members into the collective. This poll can help make the discussion public, and let the admin know there is a Up until this point, the administration has not included faculty, staff and students in planning. So this is something useful we can bring to this discussion. We can lead the inclusive discussion.

Solar-Greco says GSEU spoke with their lawyers and SUNY has given campuses lots of slack because of the different conditions across campuses. If we don't agree with their campus re-opening plans, we should let people know. The research re-opening plan was set up without any union input.

Quinn says much is happening at Statewide. They have guidelines they want us to follow.

Heinz says the academic council and membership committees can work to develop a poll. Fleming can help. Laskowski identifies a member in business who can help too.

6. Discussion of Statewide's Solidarity Pledge

[for next time]

7. Exclusion from Task Forces

[for next time]

8. Review of Officer Reports

[for next time]

9. Adjournment

[Adjourned]