



**United University Professions  
Executive Board Meeting  
Wednesday, August 23, 2006  
12:00 p.m.  
Women's Studies Colloquium Center, Old Chem**

Present: Frank Anshen, Marlene Brennan, Corinne Burns, Catherine Costanzo, Allegra De Laurentiis, Fred Gardaphe, James Hart, Nick Koridis, Nancy Lannak, Richard Laskowski, Sal Lentini, Charles McAteer, Edward O'Connell, Edward Quinn, Warren Randall, Arthur Shertzer, Paul Siegel, Willa Smith, Frank Torre, Judith Wishnia, Arnold Wishnia, Charles Wrigley, Michael Zweig, Karen Clemente, Bill Scheuerman, John Schmidt (presiding), Pamela Wolfskill (recorder)

Absent Officers: Gary Marker

Meeting commenced at 12:10 p.m. *A motion (McAteer/Laskowski) to approve the minutes of July 26, 2006 meeting carried.*

**I. Statewide President - Bill Scheuerman**

Scheuerman discussed UUP's successes both contractually and politically.

Highlights included the following:

- ◆ Legislature passed the ORP Contribution bill and the ERI, while vetoed by the governor, will continue to be pushed for its final passage.
- ◆ A bill supported by UUP that makes the president of the SUNY faculty senate an ex-officio, non voting member of the SUNY Board of Trustees. Carl Wiezalis, president of the senate, will now have a say at board meetings.
- ◆ An increase in benefits including the new cancer vaccine and
- ◆ An increase in dental benefits.

Scheuerman said UUP is doing a good job and our success is rooted in the support of our members. He stated one reason for the success is the connection with NYSUT and also the continuity of leadership which has allowed us to develop good working relationships with SUY and state negotiators. Our responsibility to the members who pay 1% of their salaries in dues is to make sure they are getting their monies worth.

**II. Chapter President's Report – John P. Schmidt**

Schmidt acknowledged Corinne Burns for aptly handling the change of venue logistics.

- Delegate Assembly – Rochester –Travel and Constitutional Amendments  
Delegates going to Rochester should advise Corinne as arrangements to charter a bus to either of the airports home on Saturday are being made.

Constitutional amendments on the agenda are

- 1) To fill vacant positions at Chapters by the end of the elections cycle
- 2) Establish a UUP Retiree Council. Judy Wishnia spoke about the proposal. She stated that the task force is headed up by Jose Feliciano.

- Negotiations – a survey instrument will be sent to every member of the chapter. It is intended to solicit information to members about what is important. Schmidt said that this can be completed on-line and asked members to utilize this method. Schmidt appointed an ad hoc advisory committee. Jose Feliciano will convene the committee. Alegra De Laurentiis will be the academic representative and Willa Smith will be the professional representative. The Negotiations Team will visit the chapter and our members will have the opportunity to provide input on the new contract. Schmidt encouraged delegates to participate and include their colleagues.
- Political Support Requests - Schmidt stated that political support requests need to have a form completed (handout attached) and submitted so it can go through proper channels. Judy Wishnia reported that NYUST is supporting Mejias instead of King.
- Englebright Event Local Assemblyman Steven Englebright is kicking off his campaign on Thursday, August 24, 2006, at the Setauket Neighborhood House. Schmidt has 4 tickets to send chapter members.
- AFT Peace and Justice Caucus – Schmidt asked if the chapter would like to get involved with this and establish a local caucus. Scheuerman stated that as AFT is moving in a new direction under the new leadership, they are very favorable to this caucus. He said that he is joining and encouraged others to do so as well. Zweig feels that while the Labor Against the War Committee’s focus is promoting an anti-war agenda, this new caucus includes economic and social justice at home and abroad as well as peaceful solutions to world conflict. Zweig said a resolution will be presented at the Fall DA to affiliate with this caucus. He stated that perhaps the Labor Against the War Committee can be morphed into this new caucus. This will be brought up at the next executive board meeting. Zweig reminded those in attendance that this is an official AFT caucus. It is an issue caucus, not a political one, and while it mainly convenes at the AFT conventions, establishing a local caucus will allow those interested to be active between conventions.
- Benefit Victory – the cervical cancer vaccine that protects against cervical cancer is now covered under the Empire Plan.
- Pre retirement planning seminar – Human Resources will hold an all day pre-retirement seminar on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Watch for more information.
- LI Federation – Wolfskill and Lentini will serve as liaisons. Roger Clayman, Executive Director, will speak at the September Chapter Executive Board Meeting.

### **III. Vice President for Professionals Report - Arthur Shertzer**

- FLSA – letters have gone out notifying individuals of their status. Negotiations over the time sheet to be used have taken place. The outcome was a time sheet by exception. Employees will continue to work regular hours and you only list the exception. It’s a small number of non exempt people that are affected.

- Professionals Council – Shertzer convened a small steering group of professional officers and delegates. He stated that through out the Academic Year the Professional Council will meet in various campus locations to discuss issues of concern. The steering committee will continue to meet regularly.
- Shertzer said he went to the NYSUT leadership conference and encouraged people to attend in the future.

#### **IV. VP for Academics Report - Michael Zweig**

- Academic Council will meet on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the UUP office. A notice will be sent out to all academic delegates as well as other academics interested in attending.
- Zweig said the Center for Labor Renewal will have a Northeast Solidarity Education School on September 7-10, 2006 in New Jersey. Those scheduled to speak include Bill Fletcher and Jerry Tucker. UUPers attending the school will include George Gonos, Chapter Chair at Potsdam, as well as Jason Torre and Pam Wolfskill from our Chapter. UUP Central will pay the tuition and travel expenses for these three people. Zweig is slated as one of the key session leaders.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report – Willa Smith**

Smith requested notification on upcoming events to allow her to plan the budget accordingly. She stated that there is about \$3,000 in total between checking and savings.

#### **VI. Secretary's Report – Pamela Wolfskill**

Wolfskill discussed the UUP Calendar for the 06/07 academic year. Brennan stated that she posts this in her area and finds it useful as she often sees people jotting down dates. Wolfskill asked for any additions to be emailed to her. An invitation (handout) to the LI Federation picnic was extended to delegates. At the next EB meeting, a GSO officer and the Executive Director of the LI Federation will be in attendance.

#### **VII. Part-time Concerns Officer- Warren Randall**

- Insight Message – Randall distributed an article that will appear in UUP's Insight. He expressed concern that part-timers are low on the profile. For employees who are 1/2 FTE, the benefits are not prorated and people who teach one course have no benefits. There has to be recognition of part-timers' prior service and not to re-hire them over and over again at the same salary and to recognize longevity. The system is set up to treat each as a one-time deal. Part-time employees are entitled to negotiated increases, but not merit or other recognition.
- Randall plans to develop an agenda with points that can be used to negotiate with local management. Zweig stated that we have a contract coming up and we want to accumulate this information so we can use these points in negotiating. Randall agreed to include this point in his article. Improvements happened because UUP has some power to make things happen.

#### **VIII. New Business**

- McAteer reported that UUP has been asked to help with phone banking during the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>. The commitment is for an hour or so and food/refreshments are at the NYSUT Suffolk HQ located on 150 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY 11788 (telephone 631-273-8822) just north of the Wicks road exit on LIE.

The targeted races on Long Island are:

Congress dist #3 supporting David Mejias (D/WF)  
NY Senate #2 supporting John Flanagan (R/C/I)  
NY Senate #3 supporting Caesar Trunzo (R/C/I)  
Assembly #1 supporting Marc Alessi (D/WF/I)  
Assembly #10 supporting James Conte (R/C/I)

UUP/NYSUT on Long Island and in statewide races will endorse 20 democrats and 18 republicans. McAteer said each evening the phone banks will have a simple script for Republican and Democratic candidates for selection and participants will only be calling NYSUT members, not the general public. The Phone Bank will run from Monday, October 16 through Thursday, October 19th. Hours each day are 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. McAteer said he hopes to see everyone for a few calls and pizza while working with other UUP chapters and NYSUT members.

**Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2006.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.