



**United University Professions
Albany Chapter**

Albany Chapter Executive Committee Minutes, January 25, 2023

Attendance: Aaron Major, Sandra Vergari, John Leirey, Ron McClamrock, Tom Hoey, Daniel Robbins, Alexander Dawson, Meredith Weiss, Elliot Tetreault, Zina Lawrence, Roxanne Moslehi, Janna Harton, Patrick Romain, Bret Benjamin, Marco Varisco, Barbara Sutton, Mercedes Fabian, Michelle Couture, Kelly Thompson-LaPerle, Deborah LaFond, Mark Kuniholm, Casey Kohler, Michael Dzikowski, Jennifer Carron, Penny Strobeck, Alison Olin, Andrew Lyons, Greta Petry, David Banks, Pedro Caban, Kate Coddington, Elizabeth Strum

Minutes were approved with clarification on the "5 programs".

President's Report: A reminder of the nominating notification that was mailed. 1 vote will get an individual on the EC Committee, 5 votes are needed to be a delegate. An officer nomination should also be listed as nominated for delegate position. Forms are due by Feb. 17.

Faculty Senate heard from Management on AI initiative. Management noted faculty were involved with the project 4-5 years ago, additional documentation would be supplied, would try to have better communication, a rep from CoR (Council on Research) would be a liaison. Any details of AI organization will wait until the new director of AI arrives. Management did not clarify funding or governance. The Senate/UUP should speak up or create resolutions. It was suggested that we can create a working group to compose a governance resolution that is concrete. The next key moment is when hiring is done next year. There's concern that AI is used as a tool to discipline departments and that it won't serve faculty diversity.

Return of CNSE – We need to make union contacts with these employees. The return of CNSE in on the L/M agenda. The budget is coming. The positions will be in Engineering and the formal transfer will be at the end of 2023. There is concern that this will be a reason to cut other programs. We need to make sure that gen ed courses are still supported. (A Feb. 8 Faculty Senate meeting will vote on gen eds.)

General membership meeting will happen in February with a vote on the budget. We may be able to get a new office space for free.

Officers' Reports:

V.P. for Professionals – Thanks to Tom and everyone on the many issues that have come up. A workshop was proposed on asking for promotion/salary increases. Perhaps in March or April? Policy concerns have been raised by both DEI and the Black/Latinx committee. These will be brought before the Delegate Assembly.

V.P for Academics – There is still concern over how understaffed student support services are. Although more of a Professional issue, it impacts everyone. There are far fewer applicants for searches. This is the case in both Rockefeller Center and AI searches.

Officer for Contingents – Leadership training went well over winter break although invitations and schedules should get out earlier next time. Also, there were reports that contingent faculty are being offered far lower salaries than usual, a trend acutely felt in WCI where individuals were offered less than half. UUP was able to intervene, but other units should be aware. Also, there was a proposal to hold monthly contingent appreciation breakfasts. \$200 was approved for contingent breakfasts.

New Business:

- a. Organizing – Legislative advocacy is needed regarding the State budget. Another issue is supporting student mental health and counseling. Also, it was noted that Fred Kowal called for support for contract negotiations and other union interests with the new Chancellor.
- b. DSI/Compression recipients. Much discussion on how to let recipients know. Final decision was to inform members on how to get a list, so they don't have to go to the UUP office. Aaron and Kelly can supply lists if there are questions. Bret noted that this year they are bargaining for longevity boosts. It was noted that UUP supports equal distribution of DSI money.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Strum