



United University Professions
Albany Chapter

Albany Chapter Executive Committee Minutes, February 22, 2023

Attendance: Deborah LaFond, Betty Shadrick, Alison Olin, Sandra Vergari, Daniel Robbins, Loretta Pyles, Michael Dzikowski, Patrick Romain, Roxana Moslehi, Rob See, David Banks, Michelle Couture, Marco Varisco, Bret Benjamin, Joe Creamer, Ron Friedman, Janna Harton, Greta Petry, Patrick Dodson, Elliot Tetreault, Zina Lawrence, Monica Bartoszek, Laura Wilder, Kelly Thompson-LaPerle, Aaron Major, Elizabeth Strum

1. January 25 Minutes were approved with edits to wording in Pres. report and VP for Professionals report.
2. President's Report: David Carpenter issue has been resolved with no disciplinary action. Carpenter had been placed on alternate assignment after a FOIA request from an outside party was submitted regarding his expert witness work in trials against Monsanto. The campus was technically in its rights to place him on alternate assignment however it should be noted that the problem began with an outside organization with financial interests. The administration doesn't seem to know what it is to defend academic freedom. The concern needs follow-up with Faculty Senate. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) wrote to Aaron, who responded. Only Fred Kowal can make public statements to the press. It's important to remember that University emails and files are all property of the University, and the Research Foundation's workings are unknown. The University's interests in public/private collaborations can be problematic regarding communications and files. Tips on differentiating personal work from University work would be useful.

A motion was made that we, as the EC, endorse the national PEER group's investigation of the administration's actions that appear to be disciplinary and a threat to academic freedom. The motion was approved, and it was reiterated that the Faculty Senate needs to follow-up with a call for an investigation.

3. Reports from other Officers/Committees

Budget proposal overview: A third General Membership Meeting may be needed for the contract ratification, so that line is \$20,000. The "other" category is for organizing initiatives. "Chapter Committee Meetings" is a category included by Statewide, but we haven't traditionally used the line. There was concern over the deficit of the budget, but the amounts are seen as aspirational with the hope of getting members back into greater involvement. A motion was made to move \$1000 out of

"Workshops" into "Chapter Committee Meetings" line. The motion was passed. The budget passed as endorsed by the Executive Committee to be voted on at the General Membership meeting.

VP for Professionals: Four workshops have been put together, 3 for professionals and 1 for academics. They will cover performance programs, criteria for promotion (A28), salaries and promotion, and Drescher awards. A request that lunch be funded for these workshops was approved.

General Membership meeting has been planned to include a contract update, candidates forum, and a vote on the Chapter budget. The March *Forum* will have candidates' statements.

The "Resolution Condemning the DeSantis Administration's Attacks on Academic Freedom and Civil Rights at the New College of Florida" was introduced in order to communicate to that college that we support them. Within the Resolution is a \$250 gift from the Chapter to the New College of Florida Students for Educational Freedom solidarity fund. The Resolution passed unanimously. It will be brought up to the UUP Delegate Assembly. It was also suggested that the Resolution be sent to the United Faculty of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Strum