



United University Professions
Albany Chapter

Albany Chapter Executive Committee Minutes, December 13, 2022

DRAFT

Attendance: Aaron Major, Sandra Vergari, Daniel Robbins, Roxana Moslehi, Ronald Friedman, Joanna Dreby, Penny Strobeck, Zina Lawrence, Loretta Pyles, Patrick Dodson, Jennifer Carron, Bret Benjamin, Monica Bartoszek, Kate Coddington, Laura Wilder, Marco Varisco, Patrick Romain, John Leirey, Alexander Dawson, Deborah LaFond, Kelly Thompson-LaPerle, Janna Harton, Elizabeth Strum

1. Minutes from the October 26, 2022 EC meeting were approved.

2. President's Report:

Aaron noted the death of Rowena Blackman-Stroud, a notable UUP activist for decades at Downstate Medical. Patrick Romain attended the funeral. She was praised by other members. Some Chapters have passed resolutions memorializing her and our chapter could compose one as well. Downstate Medical has established a scholarship in her honor.

New Chancellor is John B. King. There haven't been any policy statements yet, but we don't expect a lot of support from SUNY central regarding contract negotiations.

Chapter elections: Nomination forms will be mailed in mid-January. Now is the time to encourage folks to be delegates or officers. Elections are in June. Homeland Security, the sciences, and athletics are departments that need better representation.

Holiday work: Management agrees that holiday work needs a more liberal approach. There will be alternate workdays, and alternate buildings heated during winter break. Working from home during this time is not considered telecommuting. This is only liberal leave for energy savings.

Snow days: Work remotely if you can. These are not charged as sick days.

At the last L/M meeting, 1800 postcards were delivered. We'll continue to distribute doorhangers.

Search committees: Management, including ODI, would like to see narratives from search committees rather than the ranking of candidates. The information on the search process is contradictory, but M clearly wants control over hiring. Perhaps we should develop a consistent message on how a research institution should allow faculty to determine expertise. Salary discrepancy of minorities were brought up as a concern for new searches as well.

3. Reports from other officers / committees.

David Banks as contingent officer reported that Academic Affairs has been asked to do another round of budget cuts and as a result there have been a few contingent faculty that were non-renewed and rehired or offered a course at a reduced salary rate. We want members to know

the union will fight on their behalf if this happens. Please be mindful that professionals that teach classes as extra service could be taking away the opportunity from part-time lecturers. If possible, check that there's not already a part-time lecturer that would teach that course and it was not offered to them due to higher adjunct cost.

4. New Business

a. Organizing Drive — “Can we count on you” campaign. EC members were encouraged to take door hangers back to their departments and distribute them.

b. Funding request – BILPOC mentoring program. The mentoring program is not only for academic faculty, but professional faculty as well. The program supports mentoring of people of color but is open to everyone. Request was opened for discussion and EC members were supportive of this effort. There was a motion for \$500 in funding. All in favor with no opposition.

5. Open Discussion

Aaron put forth a funding request by Ron Friedman. Prior to the pandemic, Ron Friedman working with local partners organized peace and justice speakers to present on campus. In its 1st post Covid event in April, Women Against War is inviting major peace activist and prolific author, Media Benjamin. Ron is requested funding support of \$200 to offset the honorarium cost for the speaker. The topic for the event will be the author's latest book on the Ukraine crisis. All in favor with no opposition.

Aaron Major discussed the possibility of getting a physical office space on campus. He will ask about what spaces would be available, the square footage, and cost at the January LM meeting. The current/old office is hard to find, and not a great place to work.

Kate Coddington was acknowledged and congratulated on the work she did on the COR committee at the Senate meeting to bring forth the AI initiative decision making process resolution. The resolution passed unanimously, and the resolution could be taken to the statewide senate.

It was noted that the Provost office would like to cut 5 programs due to low enrollment and wanted UUP input before they decide what to do with these departments. They won't tell us what they plan to cut. Aaron Major will reach out to the chairs of the 5 programs to discuss this issue.

We took up a holiday gift collection for Kelly as appreciation for her work.