



LOCAL 1796 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

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Susanna Tardi, Ph.D., President

AFT LOCAL 1796

at

William Paterson University of New Jersey Minutes of General and Executive/Local Council Meeting

Date: May 13, 2003

Lunch was served

Location: SC 203, 204, 205

Time: 12:30pm - 1:55pm (Approximate)

Present: Susanna Tardi, Charles Magistro, Linda Gazzillo Diaz, Robert Murphy, Aria Cheo, Diana Peck, Cindy Simon, Bob Bing, Burt Weltman, Judy Matthew, Iris DiMaio, James Wilkerson, Angela Delaura, Kevin Martus, Daphne Joslin, John Najarian, Marion Turkish, David Stern, Stacy Walker, Shawn Ross, Ming Jian, Steve Betts, Kem Louie, John Peterman, Peter Stein, Arlene Scala, Bob Wolk, Ed Matthews, Alan Schaefer, Shari Selke, Jackie Hill, Eleanor Goldstein, Neddie Serra, Susan Sabatino, Vincent Vicari, Irwin Nack, Linda Dye, Amy Giovanetti, Madeline Rosar, Eliana Antoniou, Jane Hutchison, Sherry Xu, Dorain Douglas, Muroki Mwaura, Florence Omachonu

Guest: Vincent Baldassano, AFT Local 1796 Financial Consultant

Items distributed to the Council and general membership:

- 1) Proposed 05/13/2003 meeting agenda
- 2) Minutes of 04/15/2003 meeting (second distribution)
- 3) Copies of Legislative Action Center/Action Alert for students
- 4) Officers' Scope of Responsibilities
- 5) Copies of Capital Project Update

Items circulated to the Council and General membership:

Investment update (from Vincent Baldassano, AFT Local 1796 Financial Consultant)

NOTE: 1. All motions were approved unanimously unless stated otherwise.

2. *All follow up work to be carried out are in italic.*

1. Call to Order-
The meeting was called to order by Sue Tardi at 12:38pm. After reaching a quorum, the meeting proceeded according to the proposed agenda.
2. Approval of agenda –
Motion: To approve the agenda as presented:
Moved by Bob Wolk, seconded by Stacy Walker. The motion passed.
3. Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2003
Motion: To approve the minutes of 03/13/03 meeting as presented:
Iris DiMaio moved, Kevin Martus seconded. The motion passed.
Note: Contact Aria Cheo after the meeting if any additional changes are needed.
4. Finance Report- Vince Baldassano:
Copies of the Investment Report were circulated. Vince explained the items included in the report in detail. Q/A session followed. Vince has been helping us with our investments for nine years.
Motion: To accept the financial report as presented:
Bob Bing moved, Kevin Martus seconded. The motion passed.
The members expressed their deep gratitude to Vince Baldassano.
5. Treasurer's Report- Diana Peck: No comments were received from the membership regarding the proposed budget.
Motion: To approve the 2003-2004 budget as circulated and reported at 4/15/03 meeting
Peter Stein moved, Eleanor Goldstein seconded. The motion passed. The 2003-2004 budget was approved.
6. President's Report- Sue Tardi:
Sue Tardi asked Bob Bing, Linda Dye and Irwin Nack to rotate serving as parliamentarians at local meetings. All three agreed to serve. Bob Bing will reside as the parliamentarian for this meeting.
 - a. Local's Involvement in Politics for Union Leadership and Department:
Sue Tardi explained that based on the Robert's Rules of Order, the meeting agenda might be altered by any member. Sue Tardi recommended that the department representative has the right to vote his/her conscience, but is ultimately responsible to report and consult department membership regarding the issues. The Executive Board has requested all to observe a 10 days rule to insure that the issues would be included in the agenda in a timely fashion.
 - b. Compensation for Release Time Credits for Union Leadership Team:
The situation has not been resolved. At the request of President Speert, Sue Tardi has submitted

a proposal to justify our claim: 60% VP Grievance, 50% for VP Negotiation, and 25% for President as compensation from the Administration. This proposal was passed by the membership unanimously. In addition, the VP/Grievance Officer's release time should not come from a grant. Sue Tardi will be meeting with President Speert to discuss this matter in the near future.

c. Master Contract Negotiation Update:

AFT Council has sent in our non-economical package to the state. The response from the state negotiation team was completely unacceptable. Their counter proposal was very thin. Further negotiations will proceed.

d. Legislative Breakfast Update:

The event was a huge success. Legislators attended include Senators Russo and Steele. Two legislators were particularly concerned for our funding level. Their children attend WPUNJ. The Administration had a number of representatives; President Speert, as well as representatives from the Provost's office. Sue thanked all of the members who attended and helped with this activity.

e. Board of Trustees Finance Audit Committee Update:

The University reserve is at the lowest it's been, about 2.5 million dollars. President Speert stated WPUNJ may get back some funds from the Governor. At a meeting of the BOT Finance Audit Committee, only two faculty members and three students attended. The announcement of this meeting was vague and not clearly announced to the community. Sue Tardi asked Dr. Speert to formally inform the Union of these meetings in the future. Speert agreed.

f. Master Planning/Charet Update: Sue Tardi gave examples for the plan proposed:

- 1) Based on the Charet Master Plan, Lot #7 will be permanently eliminated.
- 2) Top level of Lot 5 will be suspended on a temporary basis
- 3) The parking lots will be located at more remote areas to create a "walker friendly" campus.
- 4) Science building will be expanded
- 5) Student center will be renovated

g. Furlough Program:

Still at the working stages.

h. Constitution and By-Laws Update:

The Executive Board has encountered a number of cases in the past that can be quickly resolved if the department has by-laws. Sue Tardi urged every department to construct and/or review existing by-laws and send them to the AFT office to keep on file.

7. VP of Grievances Report- Charles Magistro:

a. Role of the Union in Department Issues: The Union as a "mediator".

Do not come to the AFT for inter-departmental conflict. We will listen but not interfere.

Conflicts need to be resolved within the departments utilizing, the Executive Board, the Chairperson and the department members. The Union can serve as a mediator, give advice and

counsel once the aforementioned procedures have been followed.

b. Department by-laws:

Charles Magistro re-emphasized the importance of department by-laws. Many disputes among faculty might be resolved quickly if the department involved had by-laws.

c. Voting in departments:

This issue relates to the voting rights of the faculty member to vote in their departments while on sabbatical leave. The Administration is refusing to honor past practice.

8. VP of Negotiations Report- Linda Gazzillo Diaz:

a. The voting rights for faculty on sabbatical leave has gone through a difficult negotiation.

Motion: We support the fact that faculty have the voting right while on sabbatical leave.

Moved by Linda Dye, Bob Bing seconded. The motion carried.

b. Current Local Negotiation:

Compensation for internships is still at the working stage.

c. Reopening Negotiation Issues:

On the Furlough Program, the Administration will develop modifications to our proposal. We will then review them and respond appropriately.

9. Professional Staff Representative Report- Bob Murphy:

a. Professional Staff Performance Based Promotions Workshop

On 4/29/03, we had 15 members attend. We had a good turn out. The meeting was suspended to discuss modifications.

Motion: to suspend the order of the day:

Moved by Bob Bing, seconded by Linda Gazzillo Diaz. The motion passed.

b. Winter Break Closing:

The employees were told to use a vacation day for the fifth day during the break

c. Domestic Partner Update: Flyers are out.

10. Librarian Representative Report- Judy Matthew:

a. UFRAC made their recommendations. The committee will meet with the Provost next week.

Sue Tardi and Charles Magistro offered a special commendation to Judy Matthew and Robert Harris on a job, "well done" as UFRAC AFT representatives. Committee members came to the Union and expressed their appreciation to Judy and Robert for their help with procedures and implementation of the guidelines.

There was a cake for dessert to thank Bob Bing for his 14 years of dedication to the AFT Local 1796. Bob Bing thanked all and cut the cake. Judy Matthew, Diana Peck and Iris DiMaio helped serve the cake to

the members.

11. Old Business- None

12. New Business:

- a) Sue Tardi and Charles Magistro informed the members that some of the officers will be on campus during the summer. Come and see them or call extension #2988 whenever help is needed or just to say hello.
- b) Sue Tardi asked members to pick up copies of the flyers RE: "Legislative Action Center Action Alert" and give them to students who express interest in reading them.

13. Order of the Day (already suspended)

14. Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Peter Stein moved, Kevin Martus seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Aria Cheo (05/15/2003)