LOCAL 1796

At

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

Date: April 19, 2005

Location: Student Center, Rooms 203-205

Time: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Present:

Mary Pat Baumgartner (Sociology), Stephen Betts (Marketing and Management), Robert Bing, Dee Catarina (Special Education and Counseling), Robert Chesney (Biology), Song H. Chung (Chemistry and Physics), Linda Gazzillo Diaz, Iris DiMajo, Donna Fengya (Mathematics), Pixy Ferris (Communication), Charley Flint (Sociology), Amy Giovanetti (Exercise and Movement Science), Sue Godar (Marketing and Management), Claudia Goldstein (Art), Eleanor Goldstein (Mathematics), Marjorie Goldstein (Special Education and Counseling), Gina Guerrieri (Communication), Jane Hutchinson (Instruction and Research Technology), Phoebe Jackson (English), Richard Kearney, Kathleen Korgen (Sociology), Jean Levitan (Community Health), Kem Louie (Nursing), Charles Magistro, Jim Mahon (Sociology), Esther Martinez (Languages and Cultures), M. Judy Matthew (Library), Ed Matthews, Alberto Montare (Psychology), Robert Murphy (Instruction and Research Technology), Irwin Nack (History), Frank Pavese (Music), Diana Peck (Communication), John Peterman (Philosophy), Janelle Pinkston (Professional Staff), Michael Principe (Political Science), Steve Rittler (Art), Lou Rivela (Chemistry and Physics), Madeleine Rosar (Mathematics), Robert Rosen (English), Martin Rudnick, Arlene Scala (Women's Studies), Alan Schaefer (University Performing Arts), Ray Schwartz (Library), Shari Selke, Stephen Shalom (Political Science), Cindy Simon, Peter Stein (Sociology), David Stern (Environmental Science and Geography), Paul A. Swanson (Economics, Finance and Global Business), Susanna Tardi, Marion Turkish (Elementary and Early Childhood Education), Kurt Wagner (Library), Miryam Wahrman (Biology), James Wilkerson (Accounting and Law), Chriss Williams (Communication), Robert Wolk, Stan Wollock (Elementary and Early Childhood Education, Lianzan Xu (Accounting and Law), Wei Xu (Accounting and Law), Joo-Kwang Yun (Accounting and Law)

Items distributed to the Council and General Membership:

- 1) Agenda for Meeting of April 19, 2005
- 2) Minutes of March 22, 2005 General and Executive/Local Council Meeting
- 3) AFT Local Council Department Representatives, Professional Staff, Librarians and Adjuncts Slate for 2005-2006
- 4) List of Candidates Delivering Statements

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5) Proposed Budget for 2005-2006 (collected at end of meeting)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:38 pm.

2. Adopt Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Montare, seconded by Catarina. Approved unanimously.

3. Approve Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2005 General and Executive/Local Council Meeting was moved by Turkish, seconded by Montare. Approved unanimously.

4. Conferment of AFT Local 1796 Scholarship

Tardi announced that two students were awarded scholarships: Farhat Ara Tariq and Lauren MacLeod. 1 recipient was present; the other is studying abroad. M. Goldstein presented the awards to the students.

5. Department Representatives

Turkish announced the list of Departmental Representatives. She noted that several departments have yet to provide the Local with the name of their representative for 2005-2006. She urged the members in attendance to get this issue their departmental agendas so the positions can be filled.

6. Executive Board Candidates' Presentations

Levitan, speaking for the Election Committee, explained the election process. She announced ballots would be going out tomorrow and indicated that only contested positions would appear on it. The ballots will have a return deadline so they arrive in time to be counted and the winners announced prior to the May 10 meeting. She explained that ballots would include two envelopes: members should place their completed ballot in a small envelope, seal it, and place this envelope in a stamped large envelope addressed to a P.O. Box. She noted that each candidate can provide an observer to the collection and counting of ballots. Levitan urged members to be alert if any members indicate they have not received a ballot by next week. She distributed the procedures voted on at the last meeting, and she also announced the debate and question-and-answer session for candidates on Thursday afternoon. She indicated the candidates would deliver their statements in an order to be determined by a coin toss.

The candidates delivered their statements.

7. Budget

Tardi introduced Rudnick and Hutchison for the budget presentation. Rudnick detailed some of the points on the budget spreadsheet. He noted the largest expenditures are for the per-capita assessments paid to the National AFT and the State Council, and these have been broken down in the budget. The Officers' salaries are also listed individually. He noted the summer contingency funds and explained this money is held in reserve for

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use in the summer only for compensation of officers who need to work. Officers who work during the summer will be required to keep a log of their activities, and compensation will be paid. Rudnick explained that certain officers need to be on call during the summer if needed. He noted that a goal of the Budget Committee was to reduce salaries by approximately 20 percent. Hutchison thanked the other members of the committee acknowledged members of the Executive Board for meeting with the Budget Committee both before and after the recommendations were made. Rudnick mentioned that all of the Committee's recommendations were incorporated into the final version of the Budget except for its elimination of the Assistant Professional Staff Officer position.

Gazzillo Diaz stated that the members of Slate B had originally recommended a budget change that was very close to the budget committee's recommendations. The Executive Board members of Slate A originally rejected those budget modifications.

Tardi mentioned that the members are welcome to review the budget and ask questions. She apologized that the Local is unable to let members take copies of the budget with them from the meeting. She stated that this has been a long established past practice to prevent the Administration from knowing details regarding our Local's budget.

A member asked if there has been an effort to recruit new members this year. Tardi replied that there had been a large effort to recruit new members, with assistance from Staff Membership Recruiting Coordinator Mark Heter of the State Council. She noted that Bing scheduled a new members recruitment luncheon that was not successful. The member asked what impact these efforts had on total membership. Tardi replied that members numbers have increased. We are now over 50 percent membership for adjuncts. She indicated she could furnish statistics detailing how membership has risen in the last two years. She stated that Heter's success in recruiting new adjunct members says something positive about us as a local; Heter noted that our adjunct faculty members know what our Local has accomplished for them.

Rudnick noted that the Local's office staff is changing. Our office administrator from the beginning of the year is now gone, and our new one will be leaving next year. So we must recruit someone to train in order to assume the job in the next transition. We will also have a student assistant. Office expenses have gone down, in part from making more use of the internet for communication. Our copy machine expense from last year has proven to be worthwhile because service calls have gone down. Rudnick also noted that attendance fees for participation in the AFT's Higher Education Conference were budgeted but not spent. Rudnick stated the Local has contracted with a payroll service which also files our payroll taxes. He also indicated that negotiation expenses are not in next year's budget because next year is not a contract negotiation year.

A member asked for clarification of the compensatory credits (reimbursement to the Administration) line item, which Rudnick provided.

Rudnick thanked everyone involved in this year's budget preparation.

Tardi thanked Budget Committee and Rudnick.

Tardi reminded the members of the upcoming debate on Thursday.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was moved by M. Goldstein, seconded by Montare.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kearney, Recording Secretary [Edit: April 25, 2005]

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