



TEACHERS
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WCCFT Executive Committee

Meeting Summary

November 13, 2014

Reports/announcements

Reports: **NYSUT Community College Conference – Mel, Gwen, Scott, Brian**
Administration initiative on “10-hour rule” and ACA

The administration will hold a meeting with the WCCFT at which their experts and our experts will both make presentations.

Faculty Development Funds Adjunct

We received 16 applications for the adjunct funds. One application was not accepted because it was submitted with no receipt and without a dean's signature after the deadline of October 31, 2014. The total requested was \$7,360.92. In order to reach our set maximum of \$5000 the applicants will be refunded 70% of their request for a total of \$5061.64. Three applicants who requested less than \$51 were granted their original request. For an overall total of \$5191.64. **MOTION PASSED: 11-0-0.**

Old business – stipend for secretary

A request to provide the secretary an additional stipend of \$1000 for the extra assistance in maintaining the office, providing support in purchasing food, office supplies and any other duties that help sustain the WCCFT. **MOTION PASSED 10-0-1.**

Discussion about November membership meeting:

Success/failure of rotating meeting location

There are both pros and cons concerning the rotating meeting schedule but we will try it for one more semester to see if participation increases. We will try taking attendance during the meetings. The schedule for general meeting in the spring semester: **February 4, 2015-Tech 107, March 4, 2015-Science 102, April 1, 2015-Classroom 100, and May 6, 2015-Tech 107.**

Responses to negotiations discussion and Frank Frisenda (Nassau CC Federation of Teachers) presentation:

His discussion was very good and inspiring we need to start planning in how WCCFT may use some of ideas to help us at WCC.

Ideas for mobilization

Meeting set up for November 20, 2014 at 3pm to discuss ideas for mobilization.

Organizing around back pay/cost of living

Will be discussed in meeting on November 20th.

Other activities

Continued petition work and meeting with state legislators

We will continue to work on the signatures for the petition hopefully we will get the help from the Student government soon. They are meeting to discuss their participation. Will hear back soon from them. The PAC committee will work to see if students can attend several upcoming lobbying days. February 23-24 or 24-25, and March 2-3 2015.

December membership meeting

Update from Brian Dolansky

December BOT meeting

Tabled

Holiday party

We will not have a holiday party this year but will provide mugs for the faculty during the December 3rd general meeting.

Notes on NYSUT Community College Conference, November 2014

Mel Bienenfeld

- A. Lunch with Community College presidents – may institutionalize this lunch on the start day of the CC conference in future years.
 - 1. Cooperate with advocacy (\$) -- SUNY trustees ask for \$250 increase in FTE aid
 - a. Idea of students lobbying – here’s why we need the money – NYSUT higher Ed lobby Feb 24/25; SUNY advocacy day Mar 4.
 - b. The state now has a \$4b surplus from bank fines. But they want to use “one-shot” revenues for one-shot capital expenditures, not ongoing programs like education.
 - 2. Ideas from Kevin Peterman
 - a. Tell county legislators we can send endorsements to all NYSUT members in the area (or robocalls)
 - 3. CC enrollments significantly down statewide
 - 4. Also discussed SUNY seamless – there may be a “stick” – deny future programs if you are not in compliance
- B. Succession planning – ideas for qualities to look for in new leaders and how to find new leaders – (we should discuss at WCC early in spring)
- C. Health care/ACA – info on what we are entitled to have under ACA (documents and info) I have the powerpoint notes
 - a. Definition of “Cadillac” plan – tax takes effect 2018.
 - b. ACA employer penalties – only if someone gets subsidy in the market

- D. Higher ed organizing (internal organizing because of Friedrichs vs California Teachers Association – decision expected 2016). Agency fee crisis – new young fulltimers must understand value of the union or they won't join. All of us must learn how to talk to people, engage them, etc.
- E. Lunch speaker – Failure of social mobility. SUNY's mission is now to become a business development engine. Open SUNY and Seamless Transfer makes the role of the faculty just as person who carries out the plan rather than creator of the educational process.
- F. Legal issues – I didn't take a lot of notes. Was not so much about current happenings as knowledge of legal aspects of the contract.
- G. ED 39 (see meeting with presidents)
- H. Final plenary on budget issues – learned about fund balance and how the legislature may budget whatever amount for it wants "notwithstanding" the rule that 40% of CC funds are supposed to come from the state.

The NYSUT Community College Conference, which took place November 7th to 9th in Saratoga Springs was very informative. The first session I attended was the Emergency Preparedness for Higher Education. "This workshop explored critical elements for campus readiness such as emergency procedures, mass communication capability, mental health services and building challenges to a successful 'lock down' response." The highlights of this workshop were as follows:

- We are all stakeholders
- Emergency planning is a union issue
- Health and safety language should be clear in the contract
- Adjunct faculty must be privy to emergency procedures
- Security issues should be brought to light, such as visibility issues (i.e. trees, lighting), inability to lock doors, open or easy access to buildings and rooms
- Emergency plans for after hour activities should be developed
- Money must be set aside for better and more effective emergency planning
- There should be an annual safety audit on all campuses

The next workshop I attended was Grievance 101: Strategic Handling. This was a two-part workshop which examined "ways to assess the questions, concerns or complaints presented to you by members." In this workshop an actual grievance case was studied.

Another highlight of the event was the speech made by Karen E. Magee, NYSUT President, who reminded us that community colleges are incubators of innovative ideas and that successful students ensure democracy.

Submitted by Dr. Gwen Roundtree Evans, Executive Board Member

