



WCCFT Membership Meeting May 6, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 am.

Jim wished the membership happy Teacher Appreciation Week and honored our healthcare workers for National Nurses Day.

1. The minutes of April 1, 2020 meeting were approved.
2. After item 5, TRS Vote, was moved to item 3, the agenda was approved.
3. TRS vote: The motion that the WCCFT request the college to change its method of reporting to TRS from by the contact hour to by the credit hour passed 51 – 0 – 12.
4. Contract negotiations update:
Jim reported that in the 2020/21 NY State budget funding for community colleges was already flat, and now spending has been reduced by \$10.1 billion; additional cuts may also be made. The impact on community colleges could be major.
The negotiating team has been meeting to strategize but there have been no negotiating sessions. Negotiations are on hold until there is greater clarity on the college's financial position. The negotiating team will continue to meet.
5. Update and discussion on Novel Coronavirus Pandemic:
Jim reported that SUNY says that all summer classes may be online. Fall has not been decided yet. The union is preparing a proposal on how best to handle teaching in distance learning modes. Two aspects are that the college should be ready to offer as many online courses as enrollment will support, and that necessary training should be provided for faculty, and they should be compensated. Jim and Deirdre are meeting with Vanessa Morest and Hector Graciano. The union proposes that department chairs and departmental committees make decisions on best practices for their disciplines, and that there are clear limits on meetings set by the administration and on office hours.
On reopening campus, the WCCFT has compiled many recommendations from faculty into a document which the Executive Committee is reviewing. Send suggestions to Jim, Deirdre or Craig Padawer, the chair of the WCCFT Health and Safety Committee.

The impact on enrollment is unknown; there could be many class cancellations. The union will assist adjuncts who are union members in applying for unemployment.

- There will be a workshop run by Amanda Velasquez from NYSUT
- The union will ask that the administration advertise a policy of not contesting claims
- The union will develop a document with relevant information

Questions were taken.

Promotions and sabbaticals are under “impact consideration”. Reappointment decisions went out last night.

Jim reminded us of Belinda Miles’ Friday message asking us to contact our state and federal representatives to request no cuts to higher education.

The proposal for remote teaching is being done by faculty and is a great opportunity for solidarity. A meeting for department chairs is being set up for Friday to discuss this. Class limits are important.

Jim will be in touch regarding holding union meetings during the summer.

6. Other Reports and Updates: None
7. Member Comments and Questions: None
8. New Business: None
9. Adjournment at 12:55 pm.

Minutes written by Rowan Lindley