# Montclair State University Federation of Teachers Local 1904, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO Bylaws 

## ARTICLE I. CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

Section 1 A copy of these bylaws and the constitution shall be made available to all unit members via posting on the Local's website.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS AND QUORUM
Section 1 Meetings shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, Revised and those rules shall govern in all cases not covered and the Local's Constitution or these Bylaws.
Section 2 A quorum for meetings shall be 25 (twenty-five) members. A quorum is required for ratification of motions, including motions to amend the Local Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with Robert's Rules.
Section 3 Meeting agendas shall be distributed electronically to the general membership in advance of meetings as well as being posted to the Local's website. Any member in good standing can add items to the agenda by notifying the Recording Secretary no less than two days before a scheduled meeting. Item/s brought up under New Business at Membership Meetings require no advance notice.

## ARTICLE III. DUES

Section 1 The annual membership dues of the AFT Local 1904 shall be $1 \%$ (one percent) of each member's gross base annual salary, collected through automatic dues deductions.
Section 2 AFT National requires that each Local include a dues pass-through in their bylaws to be in compliance with the National's constitution. Local 1904 dues, as a percentage of salary, covers most by-yearly increases by National, the Council and the State Fed. In the event that our percentage increases do not cover increases in National and State dues, the Local, with the approval of the membership at a Membership Meeting, shall increase dues dollar-for-dollar to match the shortfall.
Section 3 Any change in the dues structure shall be established through a twothirds majority vote of members present at a regular meeting provided such a vote has been announced at the previous meeting, electronic notice sent to the membership and posted on the AFT Local 1904 website.

## ARTICLE IV-FINANCES

Section 1 The elected officers have fiduciary responsibility for all financial matters of the Local. Because of this the Local will provide through the

National AFT program, professional liability insurance for all elected officers.
Section 2 The Treasurer keeps the Local's books in accordance with acceptable financial practices including the capability to generate standard reports which are presented as appropriate at Membership Meetings.
Section 3 Any checks over $\$ 1000$ require two signatures. Signatories on our checking account are the President, Vice-President for Internal Affairs and the Treasurer.
Section 4 AFT Local 1904 records will be reviewed by the Audit and Finance committee in the spring preceding the National Convention in order to remain in compliance with AFT National's requirements for delegate seating at the convention.
Section 5 The Local can incur no expenditures without a voucher signed by the President, Vice-President for Internal Affairs or other elected officer where appropriate. No person can approve and sign his/her own expense voucher.
Section 6 The Treasurer is required to keep Union funds in an accredited bank in FDIC insured accounts. The Treasurer in consultation with the Audit and Finance Committee and Officers may put some funds in a Certificate of Deposit or other interest-bearing account but cannot invest Union money in any product that is not insured or has a downside risk.

## ARTICLE V. TERMS OF OFFICE AND FILLING OF VACANCIES

Section 1 Officers shall be elected by secret ballot of the membership, conducted during the Spring semester of even-numbered years to hold office for a term of two years commencing on May 1 and concluding on April 30.
Section 2 In the event that the President leaves during his or her term of office, the Vice-President for Internal Affairs becomes President for the remainder of the term provided that the remainder of the term is less than a year. In the event that the President leaves with more than a year remaining in his or her term, the Vice-President for Internal Affairs becomes President until a special election is completed using the election procedures outlined in Appendix 1.
Section 3 In the event that an elected officer, other than the President, leaves during their term of office, the President shall appoint someone to fulfill the duties of that position until an election is held as per Appendix 1.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION of OFFICERS \& DELEGATES (procedures in Appendix 1)
Section 1 Elected officers of the Local are those included in Article IV, Section I of the Constitution. The President and Vice-President for External Affairs serve as delegates to the AFT National Convention. AFT Local

1904 delegates to the Council of NJ State College Locals are elected at the same time as officers and also serve ex-officio as delegates to the National Convention.
Section 2 To be eligible for elected office or to serve as a delegate, a person must be a member in good standing of the AFT Local 1904. Members of the Elections Committee cannot run for any elected office of the Local.

## ARTICLE VII. VOTING RIGHTS

Section 1 Only members can vote in Local elections for Officers or other Local business or contractual matters.
Section 2 Non-members of the AFT Local 1904 bargaining unit have no voting rights. Non-members do not have the right to vote on the State-Union Agreements negotiated with the employer nor are they able to vote on agreements between the Local and the Montclair State University Administration. Non-members cannot vote on dues adjustments, increases or decreases. Non-members are not eligible to vote on a job action such as a strike authorization or other campus-wide slowdown or protest.
Section 3 All state-wide and local agreements shall be voted on by members in good standing. State-wide contract ratification shall be coordinated by the Council of New Jersey AFT Locals in accordance with current accepted practices. Local agreements will be voted on at Membership Meetings and require a simple majority for ratification.

## ARTICLE VIII. OFFICER STIPENDS

Section 1 Officers are paid stipends quarterly. The annual stipends shall be posted on the Local's website.
Section 2 Adjustments to Officer stipends are made in the same proportions as state-wide negotiated raises. In the event of state-wide givebacks or furloughs, Officer stipends will be adjusted accordingly.
Section 3 For stipend adjustments other than those resulting from state-wide negotiated adjustments, the Treasurer will prepare a presentation to the Executive Board for consideration at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES: STANDING AND SPECIAL

Section 1 The following Standing Committees are established by these bylaws and members are appointed as appropriate by the President and Officers Group. Special committees can be convened by the Officers on a non-permanent basis as necessary.
Grievance Committee-The Grievance Committee shall consist of the Vice-President for Personnel, and at least one other person each from the faculty, the professional staff and the librarians.

Negotiations Committees-There are two negotiating committees: (i) the Faculty/Librarian/Specialist Negotiations Committee, and (ii) the Professional Staff Negotiations Committee. The Professional Staff Negotiations Coordinator shall serve as chairperson of the Professional Staff Negotiations Committee. Both Negotiating Committees report directly to the Vice-President for Negotiations. The Vice-President for Negotiations may convene both Committees together for the purpose of consideration and negotiation of issues that substantially affect the constituencies of both Committees.
Membership and Recruitment Committee-The Membership and Recruitment Committee is composed of three members and shall be convened by the Organizing Coordinator, who shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee.
Elections Committee-See Appendix 1 Section 2.
Audit \& Finance Committee-The Audit \& Finance Committee reviews the financial procedures and practices of the Local. This committee evaluates where the local keeps its accounts and coordinates investments as appropriate. The Treasurer convenes the Audit \& Finance Committee. Additionally, this committee conducts the financial reviews of the local. The Treasurer convenes and serves as non-voting chair of the Audit \& Finance Committee
COPE (Committee on Political Education) Committee-The COPE
Committee is concerned with all Local matters concerned with political action and politics. The Vice-President for External Affairs shall chair this committee which shall have at least three members. The COPE Committee has a separate constitution and procedures which are voted on by regular COPE contributors.
Personnel Committee-The Personnel Committee conducts the evaluation of the Office Manager as per the Employment Agreement and serves as oversight to any other personnel matters concerning Local officers, committee members and employees. The Personnel Committee is composed of the Vice-President for Internal Affairs who serves as chairperson of the Committee, Treasurer, the President and two additional elected Officers.
Section 2 The Officers, commensurate with the time commitment and responsibilities of the committee and committee members, shall establish stipends for standing and special committees. Stipends may be paid yearly or quarterly as appropriate and as determined by the Officers and approved by the Executive Board.

## Appendix 1: ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Section } 1 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Every two years AFT Local } 1904 \text { shall elect the following officers: } \\ \text { President, Vice-President for Internal Affairs, Vice-President for }\end{array}\end{array}$

|  | External Affairs, Vice President for Personnel, Vice-President for <br> Negotiations, Faculty Coordinator, Faculty Negotiator, Professional <br> Staff Coordinator, Professional Staff Negotiator, Treasurer, Recording <br> Secretary, Librarian Coordinator, Specialist Coordinator, and |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Organizing Coordinator. Delegates to the Council of New Jersey State <br> College Locals are elected by the membership based on the number of <br> available positions as determined by Council Constitution/Bylaws <br> based upon AFT Local 1904 membership total. The President, by |
| virtue of office, is a delegate to the Council and a member of its |  |
| Executive Council. |  |
| Section 2 | For regular biennial elections, an Elections Committee, consisting of <br> three members, is appointed by the President with the approval of the |
| Officers by January 31 of an election year and shall conduct elections |  |
| of all officers in accordance with the Landrum-Griffin Act and the |  |

by the Council Constitution/Bylaws based upon the total membership of the Local. If the Local is entitled to more delegates than there are officers, those positions should be included on the regular elections ballot. If a tie vote occurs such that candidates for Delegates cannot be selected, a run-off election shall be conducted to resolve the tie. In the event that an elected officer declines to be a delegate to the Council, then the candidate with the next highest vote count will be elected.
Section 11 In the event no candidate submits a petition for an office, the position's duties will be fulfilled through action of the Officers until a candidate can be identified and elected in a special election. No elected officer can hold two offices.
Section 12 Successful candidates shall assume office May 1 st of an election year.
Section 13 The results of the election shall be disseminated electronically to members within one week of the election's conclusion.
Section 14 A petition signed by at least $20 \%$ of the membership and stating specific grounds shall be sufficient to require the Elections Committee to conduct a recall election of any officer specified in the petition. The recall election shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures outlined in these procedures. If an officer is recalled, the Elections Committee shall hold a special election using the same procedures described above.

## APPENDIX 2: IOB DESCRIPTIONS OF AFT LOCAL 1904 ELECTED OFFICERS

## The President:

- All officers serve under the direction of the President. The President organizes, manages, and oversees the Officers of the Local.
- The President is responsible for all actions that represent the Local and serves as the spokesperson for AFT Local 1904.
- The President is entrusted by the Local to uphold the bylaws and constitution and presides at all Membership Meetings of AFT Local 1904 unless otherwise noted.
- The President represents the Local on the local, state and national level as both a spokesperson and as a delegate where appropriate.
- The President appoints members to all committees, subject to approval by the Officers, and appoints committee chairpersons.
- The President is responsible for making sure that all employees and consultants employed by the Local have specified assigned duties and are appropriately supervised.
- Is ultimately responsible for all communications within the organization and with the organization and outside persons and entities.
- Serves as a delegate to the Council of New Jersey State College Locals (CNJSCL) and as a member of the Council Executive Committee represents the Local at any special executive meetings called by the CNJSCL.
- Serves as a delegate at the National American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention.
- Represents AFT Local 1904 at political and legislative functions as appropriate.
- Attends meetings of the MSU Board of Trustees and addresses the Trustees concerning any agenda issues that concern the Local.
- Serves as an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees.
- Is co-signer of any legally or financially binding documents of the Local.
- Is one signatory for any checks over $\$ 1000$ prepared by the Treasurer in accordance with the Local's financial procedures.
- Serves as a delegate to the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFT NJ)


## Vice-President for Internal Affairs

- Presides at meetings of the Executive Board of AFT Local 1904.
- Shall perform all duties of the President in his/her absence. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Internal Vice President shall become President as per the procedures outlined in Article IV.
- Assists the President in the performance of her/his duties.
- Is responsible for the continuing functioning of all AFT Local 1904 committees.
- Coordinates the AFT Local 1904 Scholarship process and chairs the Scholarship Committee.
- Oversees the maintenance and updates of the Union website.
- Disseminates and coordinates the Local's newsletter and e-bulletins.
- Assists the President with coordination of campus-based special projects
- Serves as immediate supervisor of the Office Manager.
- Responsible for Agendas for Membership and Officers meetings.
- Is one signatory for any checks over $\$ 1000$ prepared by the Treasurer in accordance with the Local's financial procedures.


## Vice-President for External Affairs

- Shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the Council of New Jersey State College Locals, state, and national affairs.
- Informs CNJSCL delegates of times, dates and locations of CNJSCL meetings, monitoring attendance of CNJSCL delegates and prepares reimbursement and meeting vouchers.
- Serves as a liaison to other labor unions and community organizations, particularly the Essex-West Hudson County Labor Council, NJ AFL CIO, NJ Citizen Action, and any other affiliated labor councils or organizations.
- Monitors salary, health care, insurance and pension benefits information.
- Coordinates all political activities of the Local and serves as the COPE Committee Chairperson.
- Represents the Local at political action activities as appropriate.
- Reports on all State and National legislation affecting the Local.
- Coordinates, in conjunction with the Vice-President for Negotiations, statewide negotiations for regular successor agreements and contracts
- Serves as a delegate to the AFT National Convention.
- Serves as the a delegate to the NJ State Federation of Teachers


## Vice-President for Negotiations (Chief Negotiator):

- Reports directly to the President and is responsible for all matters regarding local negotiations.
- Signs all negotiated agreements between AFT Local 1904 and the Montclair State University administration.
- Coordinates and oversees the work of the Faculty/Librarian/Specialist and Professional Staff Local Negotiations Committees and acts as a resource to all matters related to negotiations.
- Serves on the Faculty/Librarian/Specialist Local Negotiations Committee.
- Serves on Professional Staff Negotiating Local Negotiations Committee
- Consults with AFT Local 1904 Officers on matters related to local negotiations.
- Oversees and disseminates the Local agreements.
- Coordinates, in conjunction with the External Vice President, the positions of the Local in State-wide negotiations.
- Maintains historical records of Local negotiations and table talk as appropriate


## Vice-President for Personnel (Grievance Officer)

- Assists members with all employment related questions and concerns.
- Serves as the point person relative to grievances and for the protection of the contractual rights of the members of the Unit.
- Serves as chairperson of the Grievance Committee.
- Determines whether violations of the State-Union Agreement and Local Selected Procedures have occurred.
- Gives advice regarding possible contractual violations.
- Responds to member inquiries.
- Maintains personal contact with MSU administration.
- Maintains records of grievances in the Local office.


## Recording Secretary:

- Records and is responsible for the dissemination of the minutes of all AFT Local 1904 meetings, including Membership Meetings and Officer and Executive Board Meetings, and posts them on the Local's website.
- Maintains and organizes a separate file of all resolutions and action items passed by the membership or Officers.
- Prepares documents for membership and officer meetings.
- Posts pertinent documents to the Local's web page/s.
- Maintains, manages, and organizes document archives.


## Treasurer:

- Shall receive all monies due to the local and deposit funds in the appropriate AFT Local 1904 account.
- Records all income, and disbursements using accepted accounting practices in an electronic accounting system as approved by the Local's accountant and the Audit and Finance Committee.
- Prepares and disperses checks for all monthly dues obligations including AFT, CNJSCL, the State Federation and any other dues per capita payments required.
- Prepares and disperses officer honoraria, staff salaries, operating expenses and reimbursements in accordance with state and federal tax laws and regulations.
- Maintains and organizes all records for annual financial reports, reviews and yearly tax filings.
- Backs-up financial records and keeps those backups offsite from where the records are kept. The passwords for backups are known to the Office Manager, President, Internal VP and accountants.
- Reviews the annual IRS tax forms as prepared by our accountants and signs those forms for submission.
- Prepares and disseminates an annual report of AFT Local 1904 finances to the membership.
- Serves as Liaison with National AFT to ensure that AFT Local 1904 is in good financial standing.
- Chairs the AFT Local 1904 Audit and Finance Committee.
- Establishes and maintains AFT Local 1904 financial policies for review by the Officers and Executive Board.
- Responsible for presenting a budget to the Officers in August and presenting to the Executive Board that budget during their Fall semester meeting.
- Makes an end of fiscal year presentation to the Executive Board at their Spring meeting and the membership at an appropriate Membership Meeting.


## Faculty Coordinator:

- Shall be responsible for representing Faculty issues at Membership Meetings, Officer and Executive Board meetings and as well as any other forum requiring Faculty representation.
- Closely collaborates with AFT Local 1904 Faculty Negotiator, AFT Local 1904 Vice President for Negotiations to establish and actualize local objectives with regard to Faculty issues and general AFT Local 1904 aims.
- Works with the President to prepare for and present at the New Faculty Program workshop in the Fall Semester of every year.
- Disseminates information to Faculty about local and state-wide issues in coordination with other officers.
- Coordinates workshops for reappointment, tenure, and promotion.
- Assists in the representation of Faculty issues at the CNJSCL.
- Communicates regularly with AFT Local 1904 Officers the concerns, issues, and initiatives surrounding Faculty.
- Shall be accessible to Faculty who wish to communicate concerns, issues, and initiatives and refers members to other officers for assistance as necessary.
Faculty Negotiator:
- Is responsible for all matters regarding local negotiations specific to the Faculty.
- Assists in the representation of Faculty negotiations issues at CNJSCL.
- Provides unit members with negotiations updates at Membership Meetings, as appropriate.
- Works with the AFT Local 1904 Faculty Coordinator to establish and actualize local objectives with regard to Faculty issues and general AFT Local 1904 aims.
- Assists the AFT Local 1904 Vice President for Negotiations.
- Serves as a member of the State-Wide negotiating team during Master Contract Negotiations, attending statewide negotiations and/or planning meetings, as needed.
- Assists the Faculty Coordinator and other Officers in their work with Faculty members as necessary.


## Professional Staff Coordinator:

- Shall be responsible for representing Professional Staff issues at Membership Meetings, Officer and Executive Board meetings and as well as any other forum requiring Professional Staff representation.
- Serves on the Professional Staff Negotiating Committee.
- Closely collaborates with AFT Local 1904 Professional Staff Negotiator.
- Works with the Professional Staff Negotiator to establish and actualize local objectives with regard to Professional Staff issues and general AFT Local 1904 aims.
- Coordinates two meetings, one each semester, for Professional Staff as a forum for comment, initiatives, and concerns.
- Disseminates information to Professional Staff about local and state-wide issues.
- Coordinates two separate re-appointment sessions (one for one-year reappointments and one for multi-year re-appointments) each year.
- Assists in the representation of Professional Staff issues at CNJSCL.
- Communicates regularly with AFT Local 1904 Officers the concerns, issues, and initiatives surrounding Professional Staff.
- Shall be accessible to Professional Staff who wish to communicate concerns, issues, and initiatives and refers members to other officers for assistance as necessary.
Professional Staff Negotiator
- Shall be responsible for all matters regarding local negotiations specific to Professional Staff.
- Assists in the representation of Professional Staff negotiations issues at CNJSCL.
- Provides unit members with negotiations updates at Membership Meetings as appropriate.
- Works with the Professional Staff Coordinator to establish and actualize local objectives with regard to Professional Staff issues and general AFT Local 1904 aims.
- Serves as a member of the State-Wide negotiating team during Master Contract Negotiations, attending statewide negotiations and/or planning meetings, as needed.
- Assists the Professional Staff Coordinator and other officers in their work with Professional Staff members, as necessary.


## Librarian Coordinator:

- Shall be responsible for coordinating and maintaining sub-committees on Librarian issues, for chairing Librarian Local meetings, for attending meetings of the Librarians' Committee of the Council, and for representing Librarians on matters other than grievances.
- Shall be responsible for representing Librarian issues at General Union Meetings, Officers' Group Meetings, and Executive Board Meetings.
- Coordinates at least one (1) meeting per semester for Librarians as a forum for comment, initiatives, and concerns.
- Disseminates information to Librarians about local and CNJSCL issues.
- Helps to establish and actualize local objectives with regard to Librarian issues and general AFT Local 1904 aims.
- Assists in the representation of Librarian issues at CNJSCL.
- Communicates regularly with AFT Local 1904 Officers the concerns, issues, and initiatives surrounding Librarians.
- Shall be accessible to Librarians who wish to communicate concerns, issues, and initiatives.
- Advises and collaborates with the VP for Negotiations on matters involving Librarians.
- Shall be responsible for organizing and presenting Local negotiation items pertaining to librarians and serving as a member of the Faculty/Librarian/Specialist Negotiations Committee.
- Shall be responsible for all matters regarding local negotiations specific to Librarians.
- Consults with other AFT Local 1904 officers on matters related to Librarians. Specialist Coordinator:
- Shall be responsible for representing Instructional and Clinical Specialist issues at Membership Meetings, Officer and Executive Board meetings and as well as any other forum requiring representation.
- Closely collaborates with AFT Local 1904 Vice President for Negotiations to establish and actualize local objectives with regard to Specialist issues and general AFT Local 1904 aims.
- Serves on the Faculty/Librarian/Specialist Negotiating Committee.
- Disseminates information to Specialists about local and State-wide issues in coordination with the other Officers.
- Coordinates two meetings a year (one each semester) for Specialists with an agenda that includes relevant Specialist issues.
- Assists in the representation of Specialist issues at the CNJSCL.
- Communicates regularly with AFT Local 1904 Officers the concerns, issues, and initiatives surrounding Specialists.
- Shall be accessible to Specialists who wish to communicate concerns, issues, and initiatives and refers members to other officers for assistance as necessary.


## Organizing Coordinator:

- Leads efforts to organize and mobilize the membership in carrying out campaigns consistent with the objectives of the Local.
- Coordinates the stewards and refers any pertinent items to the appropriate officer.
- Oversees the recruitment of members and chairs the Membership Committee.
- Oversees the maintenance of the Local's email lists in coordination with the Office Manager and Treasurer.


## Montclair State University Senate Liaison:

- Serves as an information bridge between the Montclair State University Senate and AFT Local 1904.
- Reports to the Local membership at regular Membership Meetings on pertinent issues the University Senate is considering and/or debating.
- Serves as a non-elected officer of the Local.


## APPENDIX 3: Job Description of Delegates to the Council of New Jersey State College Locals (Number to be determined by CNJSCL Constitution. 1 CNJSCL Delegate for each 50 full members)

- Serve as a delegate of the Local to the state Council, which represents the nine state colleges in the bargaining unit fixed by the Public Employees Relations Commission.
- Serves on the Local Executive Board.
- Shall attend at least two State Council meetings per academic year unless unusual circumstances arise and the President is notified.

[^0]The President or any other Officer who is responsible for overseeing the work of another Officer or Committee members may at any time follow this procedure to ensure that the work of the Local is accomplished in a timely fashion.

## Step 1 -

a. The President or presiding officer must meet with and discuss the problems the officer or committee member in question. The President or presiding officer must collect and provide documentation of the problems - this may include, but is not limited to a log of emails, telephone calls or discussions with others regarding the problem and correspondence including emails, memos, letters, etc., - and review this material with the officer or committee member in question.
b. The President or presiding officer must then must provide the officer or committee member in question with a written corrective action plan and review it. The corrective action plan may include but is not limited to goals and objectives for the completion of work, additional training so the officer or committee member can acquire the skills necessary to carry out the job in question, etc. The officer or committee member may ask for reasonable changes to be made to the corrective action plan.
If a mutually agreeable corrective action plan cannot be derived, then the President or presiding officer shall then bring the matter to the Personnel Committee.
Step 2 -
a. When a matter is brought before the Personnel Committee, the committee shall convene a meeting to review the matter. Both parties shall be provided the opportunity to present their case and provide evidence regarding the matter, including the calling of witnesses and submission of documentation. The process shall be similar to a Step One Hearing as outlined in the Grievance Procedure specified in the State-Union Agreement.
b. The Personnel Committee shall then meet privately to discuss the matter and come to a formal decision that shall be presented in writing to both parties. Should either party be unsatisfied with the decision, they are entitled to bring the matter before the entire Officers Group.
Step 3 -
a. A special meeting of the Officers Group shall be called to address the matter. Both parties shall have an opportunity to present their case. The Chair of the Personnel Committee shall present the committee's findings and recommendations. At that point the Executive Board shall decide to:

1. Uphold the Personnel Committee's decision.
2. Present an alternative Corrective Action Plan.
3. Take a vote of no confidence regarding the officer or committee member in question and remove that person from office.
If the Officers Group upholds the Personnel Committee's decision or presents an alternative Corrective Action Plan, and the Officers Group decision is unacceptable to the officer or committee member in question, the Officers Group can vote to remove the individual from office. However, the Officers Group shall give the individual the opportunity to resign before a vote is taken.

[^0]:    APPENDIX 4: Procedures for Corrective Action, Discipline and/or Removal of an
    Elected Officer or Committee Member

