

MSUFT Local 1904
General Union Meeting held on December 15, 2010
Location: Student Center, Room 419

Meeting called to order by President Rich Wolfson at 2:40pm.

Jack Samuels, Election Committee Chair, addressed the membership and announced the results of the special election for President. Rich Wolfson has been elected.

Rich Wolfson addressed the membership by thanking everyone for their support. He then reviewed the Governor's stance on Union-State Laborers.

R. Wolfson announced that a Special Election will need to be conducted for the Treasurer Position. In the interim, he will prepare checks and vouchers however he will not sign them. Checks will be signed by the Internal Vice President, Jennifer Higgins.

Secretary Betsy Montanez read the minutes for the November 10, 2010 General Union Meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Officer Reports:

President: R. Wolfson thanked Jennifer Higgins for her work as President.

R. Wolfson discussed the make-up of our local, council and AFT National. He stated that the Council is responsible for negotiating with the state on our behalf. AFT National's Constitution requires that all locals belong to a State Federation.

He then discussed the Local's affiliation with the State Federation (AFT NJ). He shared that there are issues with the leadership of AFT NJ, but assured the membership that the Local is aware of the problems and involved with efforts to make positive changes.

Internal Vice President: Jennifer Higgins returned to her position as Internal Vice President.

J. Higgins reminded the membership to visit the Locals Website. There are many helpful links. She encouraged members to call the Local if they have questions or concerns.

J. Higgins announced that scholarship applications will be made available soon and a notice will go out.

She informed the membership that the faculty and staff can designate their gift be used to support the Local's scholarship through the Faculty Staff Campaign which is coordinated by the Annual Fund Office at MSU.

Negotiations: William Vincenti commented on the following matters:

- Cali School of Music: W. Vincenti announced that his team is closing in on an agreement, but that details cannot be discussed at this time but looks positive. Another

meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday to discuss personnel evaluations, the job description for the Associate Director of Faculty, etc. He urged the membership that if they learn about any Departments being reorganized into Schools or if a faculty member is approached about this, to please contact the Local as soon as possible.

- Career Development Program: The Provost prematurely sent out a message re: 2011 submissions. The 2010 round has not been completed. Procedures and distribution amounts are being discussed. There will likely be more money available this year (2010) and next year (2011). W. Vincenti encouraged members to submit applications. He then provided examples of Career Development submissions.
- Winter Closing Announcement- This announcement sent to members by Human Resources was inaccurate. The language was not as per our contract. The Administration will be asked to send out a correction.
- Classroom/Office Temperatures: Kenneth Brook, External Vice President, meet with Judith Hain re: the temperature in many classrooms and offices. A list of approved space heaters is being sought from J. Hain and will be made available to the membership.
- Statewide Negotiations: Members were asked to begin compiling a “wish list” of sorts. No date has been set for negotiations.

Secretary/Membership: B. Montanez read the following into the minutes:

On December 7, 2010 the ballots for the Special Election were counted by the Elections Committee. The results are as follows:

Total Votes: 215
Dierdre Glenn Paul received 42 votes
Rich Wolfson received 171 votes
And there were two write-ins.

The Official Tally sheet signed by Matt Pierce, Michael Heller and Grover Furr was submitted to me on December 8, 2010. It has also been posted on the Locals website.

The membership drive/raffle has been extended to February 8th. Members were reminded to reach out to their colleagues about the importance in becoming full dues paying members. Winners will be announced at the February 9, 2011 General Union Meeting.

Professional Staff Coordinator: J. Higgins provided the report on behalf of Lisa Ambrose.

A luncheon was held on December 9th for professional staff members. There were over 70 members in attendance. During the luncheon the Local was able to clarify the differences between the reclassification procedure and performance-based promotions. During 2009, 10 reclassification requests were submitted and all granted and three performance-based promotion

applications were submitted and denied. Performance-based applications are due January 14, 2011.

There was discussion among the membership in regards to reclassification and performance-based promotions. Members shared their experiences with the process.

External Vice President: Kenneth Brook discussed the following matters:

Assemblyman Tom Giblin has indicated that the decentralization issue is stalled. However, this can come up again quickly.

Possible change in the Tenure Law: There has been miscommunication by a high ranking officer who stated the Local would not mind if tenure was changed. This statement was incorrect and has been corrected. It should also be noted that the Council and State Fed stand against the proposed changes to the tenure law.

Treasurer: Rich Wolfson distributed balance sheets to the membership.

He stated we are operating in the black and our finances are in order.

Librarians Report

Mei Ling Chow announced that two Librarians are leaving as of the end of December.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

New Business

Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58pm

THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS READ ON FEBRUARY 9, 2011