

MSUFT Local 1904  
General Union Meeting held on February 9, 2011  
Location: Student Center, Room 419

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

Rich Wolfson, President announced the results of the Special Election held on February 2nd as follows:

- Treasurer – William Vincenti (formerly Negotiations Coordinator)
- Negotiations Coordinator – Ken Brook (formerly External Vice President)
- External Vice President – William Sullivan
- Council Delegate #11 – William Sullivan

R. Wolfson read the minutes for the December 15, 2010 General Union Meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

#### Officer Reports

##### President

R. Wolfson discussed the following:

- At a Council of New Jersey State College Locals (CNJSCL or the Council) meeting last year, AFT National President Randi Weingarten asked the Locals to participate in the AFT NJ State Federation. Only two states are currently not affiliated with a State Federation, NJ being one of them. Since affiliating with AFTNJ last April, the local is not currently convinced that the services provided by the State Federation warrant the expense that dues would incur. At this point National is paying all the dues but that will change in one more year. There was discussion among the membership re: Dues and the State Federation.
- The AFTNJ leadership is an issue for us. There is a possibility that the current president, William Lipkin, will step down. Other staff members have left the organization. In addition, AFTNJ is an organization for all AFT Unions, not just higher education.
- AFTNJ is coordinating efforts against Governor Christie's Tool Kit. Emphasis was made on the changes to tenure within the K-12 system. There is concern that these changes can influence changes in tenure among the Higher Education system.
- Our current state level contract will end on June 30, 2011. The membership was reminded that negotiated protections and current contract provisions will remain in effect until the new successor contract agreement is signed.
- The Local is filing a grievance re: sabbatical leaves. The Board of Trustees will be notified at their next scheduled meeting.
- It is important that all unit members pay attention to the terms of our contract. Members are encouraged to notify the Local if they believe a practice is not in accordance with our contract provisions.

## Internal Vice President

Jennifer Higgins, IVP addressed the Membership with the following:

- The application for the Becker/Keenen/Moore/Uhia/Waller Scholarship is on our web site. Announcements have been handed out. We would like to increase the number of applicants. The submission deadline is March 11, 2011. Students need two recommendations from full members of the Local. Recommendations from Agency shop fee payers and adjuncts will not be accepted.
- Our web site contains a great deal of information for member assistance.

## Negotiations Coordinator

Outgoing negotiations coordinator William Vincenti addressed the Membership:

- A final document and tentative agreement is anticipated re: the Cali School of Music
- The following matters are in discussions-Career Development funding, Range Changes for Librarians and the Library opening on snow days when the campus is closed.

Ken Brook, Incoming Negotiations Coordinator addressed the membership:

- The Local is determined to have the contract provisions followed. We will file grievances if necessary. Everyone must follow the terms of our State and Local contracts – administrators, chairs, committees, etc.
- Staffing Issues- many members are asked to work above and beyond, this is very pertinent to our Professional Staff and Librarians. This matter is beginning to affect Faculty as well as the issues with Sabbaticals, Onload time, etc. demonstrate.

## Professional Staff Coordinator

Lisa Ambrose, Professional Staff Coordinator addressed the membership:

The Professional Staff Review Board serves in an advisory capacity for Professional Staff who have been turned down for range changes, promotions and other considerations. Judith Hain, VP of Human Resources, has contacted us and prefers that the Local not constitute the board. There is nothing that has been proposed in exchange for this. The Professional Staff will have a meeting to discuss what members think and what should be done.

L. Ambrose also wanted to remind the PS staff of the following:

- Reappointment papers are due February 18, 2011.
- Lincoln's Birthday can be used to satisfy a day of the Holiday Exchange 2010 if necessary. Please be sure to use the time sheet comments box to make your notations.

## Librarian Coordinator

Mei Ling Chow, Librarian Coordinator made the following announcement:

- The Associate Dean for Public Services position is not filled. There are three other open positions.

## External Vice President

William Sullivan addressed the membership:

- Stated that we are approaching one of the most difficult negotiations in recent memory.
- Next November, Assembly seats are up for election. We need to educate ourselves on who are legislatures are and hold them accountable.
- Shared with the membership that President Susan Cole was recently listed as one of the 100 most influential business people in New Jersey, while Assembly Speaker Shelia Oliver was not listed.

## Treasurer's Report

William Vincenti is currently transitioning to his role as Treasurer. A report was not available.

## Membership

The drawing for the Nook took place and was won by Vidya Atal, Faculty. Michael Heller, Professional Staff, recruited the most new members and was presented with a Nook at the meeting.

Betsy Montanez, Secretary, thanked everyone who participated and welcomed any new members. She reminded the membership that we must continue our efforts to grow our membership.

.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

Information Items:

- Jennifer Higgins will run for the Professional Staff Office position at the College Council.
- Bill Sullivan will run for the Executive Vice President position at the College Council
- The State Health Medical Benefit Plan is run by the State and a committee. BlueCross/BlueShield is the plan administrator.
- The College Council will be surveying our membership about the upcoming contract negotiations. The survey will ask that members disclose what is important to them in our upcoming negotiations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

*MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED ON MARCH 9, 2011*