

MSUFT Local 1904
General Union Meeting held on October 13, 2010
Location: Student Center, Room 419

Meeting called to order by President Jennifer Higgins at 2:35pm.

President Jennifer Higgins introduced Jerry Collins, Coordinator of Student Conduct for the Dean of Student's Office, to the General Membership.

J. Collins informed the membership that the two most common reasons his office is contacted by faculty and staff about a student are academic dishonesty or classroom disruptions. The latter is becoming the most common reason.

Faculty has the discretion as to whether or not to report Academic Dishonesty to his Office. He also recommended that faculty members speak with their Chair for guidance in such matters.

Provided members with an example about an incident where a faculty member had contacted his Office for suggestions on how to handle the matter or to inquire about the student's file without filing a formal complaint.

Explained how students are placed on a formal list when complaints are filed. Faculty and staff can request to know if a student has already been placed on the list by another faculty or staff member in order to decide whether they would like to proceed with their own personal complaint.

When a student is reported to his office for the first time, the faculty or staff member has the discretion to be place the student on the list with a formal conduct process or without the formal conduct process. The second time a student is reported they will automatically have a conduct process.

Students can be placed on either probation or suspension. A student placed on probation will be monitored for a period of time and if no further problems occur, then the probation will be lifted. A student placed on suspension will be disenrolled from school for a minimum of one semester or maxim of two semesters. Students can also be expelled which is a final decision and there is no clemency. During the 2009-2010 academic year, 32 students were withdrawn, suspended or expelled from the University.

The most common complaint his office now receives are ones about disruptive students. Complaints include students talking and texting during class. J. Collins recommends that you set your rules and expectations ahead of time in reference to things such as talking and texting in class.

When a student becomes disruptive you can ask them to leave the room. If the student does not comply then you can call University Police and have them remove the student. Do not hesitate to call University Police if you feel threatened. If University Police is called about a student, the faculty or staff member who made the call will be consulted on how to proceed i.e. pressing

charges, etc. Be sure to email J. Collins with details should this occur. J. Collins shared with the membership that to date 8-10 students have been removed from the classroom.

J. Collins recommended that students who have ADHD, Aspergerger's Syndrome or any other condition and are being disruptive should be referred to the Disability Resource Center.

Faculty and staff may refer students who need or may be identified as a special needs student to the Disability Resource Center.

Lastly, J. Collins reviewed what No Contact Order ("NCO") and Persona Non Grata ("PNG") are and who they are applied to. NCOs are placed on students who are enrolled at MSU. Students can contact his office to request a review of a NCO and possibly having it removed. PNGs are placed on a person who is not a MSU student. Persons with a PNG are not permitted to visit the campus.

Jerry Collins and Judith Hain left the meeting at the conclusion of J. Collins presentation.

President's Report

Jennifer Higgins briefly explained that Judith Hain was present because it is the University's contractual right to have a representative of the Administration present when a University employee addresses the Union about University Policies and Procedures. J. Higgins then proceeded to discuss the following:

Elections Committee: The members of the Elections Committee were presented: Grover Furr, Michael Heller, Jennifer Hunt, Matthew Pierce and Jack Samuels. J. Higgins then stated that the first meeting of the Elections Committee was being scheduled and that it would be the Elections Committee's responsibility to run the election and determine the timeline for the election.

Cali School of Music: Discussed the changes that are being presented by the University Administration. The position of Associate Director for Faculty is similar to yet different from that of a University Chair. The Union's position on the new role was discussed.

J. Higgins opened the floor for discussion on the matter.

Officer Reports

Negotiations Coordinator:

William Vincenti discussed the following matters:

- Cali School of Music: J. Higgins addressed the issues with the Cali School of Music in her opening statement.
- Parking: One hundred and eighty responses have been collected and the parking survey is still open. More information on the survey will be available when the survey is closed

and the data collected. A call to members will be made to commence a committee to address parking issues and members suggestions.

- Career Development: the committee is working on the 2010 application process which includes drafting the application for this year.

Secretary

Betsy Montanez discussed a new incentive program being implemented to encourage current members to recruit agency shop members and new hires to become full paying members. All agency members who sign and complete full membership cards will have their name entered into a drawing for a Barnes and Nobles Nook. The full member who recruits the most new full members will also be eligible for a Barnes and Nobles Nook.

External Vice President:

Ken Brook announced that he and Rich Wolfson participated in election canvassing for Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein, who is running for a seat in the NJ State Senate. Her campaign is critical because she is being viewed nationally as a Labor Supporter. All eyes are on her campaign to see if the Labor Unions can get her elected to the NJ State Senate. Our members are strongly encouraged to vote in the coming election.

Associate Vice President for Personnel:

Naomi Liebler discussed the following matters:

- Third quarter reappointments are coming up. Make sure to check the calendar for all due dates.
- If you think you are being treated unfairly during your reappointment do not hesitate to call the Grievance Line.

Treasurer's report

Rich Wolfson wanted to clarify the Treasurer report that was distributed at the last General Union Meeting and reviewed the current balances as follows:

\$304,412.92	PNC Money Market Account
<u>\$81,179.82</u>	PNC Main Checking Account
\$385,592.74	Total

National AFT suggests that we have \$800,000 in reserves and our Local currently has less than \$400,000 in reserves.

R. Wolfson's report also discussed our increase in membership over the past year by 17 new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes approved as corrected on 11/10/10.