



**General Union Meeting
October 12, 2011
Student Center Room 419**

Meeting called to order 2:39pm

1. Approval of the minutes of the September 14, 2011 General Union Meeting:

Minutes approved as written.

2. AFTNJ Political Organizing:

Bill Sullivan, External Vice President introduced Yolanda Simmons, Treasurer for the Local 6025 MSU Adjunct Union. She addressed the membership with the following:

- Redistricting in NJ. Traditional Democratic districts are now GOP occupied. Compromised Districts: Bergen, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth Counties. (Districts 11, 14, 16, 38) Labor walks are being held in all these counties every Saturday from 9-12pm
- It is crucial that our members vote in the next election. Consider supporting candidates who supported working families and Union members by voting against the Healthcare Legislation. Lack of Union voting power could shift the State's legislature into Governor Christie's favor.
- Educate yourselves as to who your Assemblymen and Senators are and keep active communication with them (i.e. phone calls, emails).
- Participate in phone banking. Dinner at the Alexis Steakhouse to be followed by phone banking.

3. Officer Reports:

Secretary/ Membership Chair: No Report.

Treasurer, Bill Vincenti reported the following:

- Distributed Monthly report which includes fiscal year to date information.
- Looking to transfer the Local's funds into a higher interest account.
- The annual review of the Local's finances is currently being conducted.
- There were Dues increases from AFT National and Council. However, the increase has not been passed down to our membership.

Professional Staff Coordinator: No Report

Librarian Coordinator: No Report

Interim AVP for Personnel, Kathleen Hughes reported the following:

- Step One hearing held for the non-approval of a faculty promotion. Awaiting hearing officer's report.
- Arbitration hearing on sabbaticals held on October 5, the decision is pending.
- Received questions on eligibility for the sabbatical and range adjustment programs.
- Worked with members in the professional staff with questions pertaining to supervisors' evaluations.
- Provided assistance to a professional staff member who has applied for a reclassification.
- Worked with a part-time faculty member whose status was changed to Visiting Specialist.
- Assisted a member who is having difficulty with health insurance.
- The Officers approved revised Grievance Procedures at the October 4, 2011 Officer's Meeting.
- Grievance Committee is planning to meet in the near future.

Internal VP, Jennifer Higgins reported the following:

- The Solidarity Walks are being held every Wednesday, rain or shine. If you have not joined us please consider it. R. Wolfson noted that the administration has approached the Local and asked what the walks are about. J. Higgins reminded the membership that these are not protests. This is a solidarity walk to show unity.
- College Council has asked that all campuses coordinate an activity on their campuses on October 17th which has come to be known as National Boss's Day. Our Local will be hosting an event celebrating "Work that Matters". The program is open to the entire campus (CWA, IFTE, students, etc.) The program will take place from 12-2pm at the Amphitheater (rain location - Kops Lounge/Russ Hall) and will include live music performances and snacks.
- The Local has secured a table in the Alumni Green on October 29, 2011 for Homecoming. We will be distributing bottles of water to all Homecoming guests. The bottles will have a label with the Local's information and will include a QR code.

Negotiations Coordinator, Ken Brook reported the following:

- The Negotiations Team presented a position where Professional Staff and Librarians would earn 1.5 hours for every 1 hour of work during a holiday. J. Hain rejected this proposal. It was also suggested by a member that campus will remain open the day after

Thanksgiving and during winter break. This would/could offer more flexibility to our Staff in determining their time off.

- On-line Course Development: The administration wants to pay minimal compensation for the courses created by faculty. The Local has been asking to speak with the administration for the last year and a half on this matter, however only now has the administration been receptive and have agreed to talks. Let it be noted that our faculty have already created programs. R. Wolfson discussed how he has been accused of telling faculty to stop working on projects of this nature. R. Wolfson stressed during the General Union Meeting that he is not encouraging anyone stop working on these projects and encourages the creation of on-line courses. R. Wolfson did stress that the Local is working on having contracts developed for this work that would allow for faculty to be compensated in a fair manner.
- Parking: Our unit is still down 25 parking spots and adjuncts are now competing for unit member spots.
- Doctoral Faculty: The Local is gathering more data on this matter and will make it available as soon as possible.
- University Academic Advising: Deans are denying released time for academic advising coordination when requested.
- Academic Department bylaws should be updated. Many are currently incorrect or inconclusive. The Anthropology Department will provide their copy to be used as a model.

External VP, Bill Sullivan reported the following:

- Discussed what a Labor Walk entails.
- The Local is considering running a Phone Bank night. Calls would be made to our own campus membership to inform them about what is going on.
- Statewide negotiations: Counter proposals have been issued to some of the State demands.

President, Rich Wolfson:

- Appreciates members approaching him with positive and negative feedback.

4. Sabbatical Leave Application

Ken Brook reported the following:

Other campuses are going through very different issues and the elimination with Sabbaticals. Currently, MSU does have a Sabbatical process. The Provost has issued a request for applications. Dr. Cole met with CHSS and declared her commitment to the Sabbatical Process.

5. Healthcare and Pension Reform Update

Jennifer Higgins reported the following:

The State needed to issue new plan options on 10/01/11 and has not. Without a full analysis of what the changes to the insurance plans are it is difficult to make an informed decision.

It was noted that Montclair's Human Resources Department does not develop the medical plans, they get their information from the State of New Jersey. Please be patient with them.

The open enrollment program begins next week on October 17, 2011.

6. Resolution in support of the Occupy Wall Street Demonstrators

Local 1904 Member David Trubatch requested that The Resolution in Support of the Occupy Wallstreet Demonstrators (Attachment A) he submitted be read in support of the Occupy Wall Street demonstrators. NJCU, Stockton, other members of the College Council and AFTNJ have also made similar support statements.

A motion to pass the resolution as read was made. The motion received a second. Discussion on the Resolution was opened to the membership and an Amendment to the original text was voted on.

The Resolution in Support of the Occupy Wall Street Demonstrators as amended (Attachment B) passed unanimously by the membership in attendance.

The resolution will be dropped off on Friday, October 14, 2011. Julian Brash spoke to some of the issues pertaining to Occupy Wall Street support. Suggestion was made to move personal finances to banks that did not receive bailouts. November 5 is "Move your money day".

It was noted that a Teach In about OWS is scheduled for October 26, 2011 by the Students for Democratic Society (SDS).

Meeting adjourned: 3:53 p.m.