

Minutes of Feb 6, 2004 First Friday PSC Adjunct Affairs Committee

Present: Jeremy Borenstein (Baruch), Holly Clarke (John Jay), Sheila Cohen (BMCC), Jason Davis (BCC CLIP), Susan DiRaimo (Lehman, CCNY), Carolyn Fisher (GC Doctoral Students' Council), Shirley Frank (NYCTC & York), Heather Gautney (GC – DSC Adjunct Project), Alberta Grossman (BMCC), Tony Gronowicz, David Hatchett (Medgar Evers), Ingrid Hughes (BMCC & CCNY), Marielena Hurvich (Hostos), Denise A. Ingram (Hunter), Laura Kaplan (Hostos), Diane Menna (QC), Steve Moskowitz (BCC CLIP), Marcia Newfield (Chair), Vinny Tirelli (Brooklyn), Mike Vozick (BMCC & York), Dominic Wetzel (John Jay).

Meeting began at 3:30.

Introductions.

Previous Minutes. Accepted.

Spring Elections:

Marcia encourages adjuncts and continuing ed to try to participate in upcoming elections. Explains how important it is in terms of our voices.

Diane suggested that we encourage more adjuncts to participate in chapter meetings.

Legislative Campaign:

We need help with lobbying.

We need to get on City health insurance plan for adjuncts. Some confusion over the lobbying efforts in brochure to get adjuncts on NY State Health Insurance Plan. Reportedly, the Municipal Labor Council no longer supports the Part-time Faculty on the city plan. (Post-meeting clarification from Steve London: they are two different efforts that the PSC is pursuing. UUP adjuncts are on the state plan. We have trouble getting on the city plan, so we are also pursuing the state plan.).

Graduate Student Tuition Remission. We want to make it a line item instead of mixed in with other funds from 80th Street. Question raised: What about graduate students who are adjuncts (as opposed to Grad Assistants and GTFs)?

Contract Campaign:

LETTERS TO CHANCELLOR on behalf of adjuncts (begun during October 2003 Campus Equity Week) are updated and will be added to those already signed.

(Letters will be distributed to adjunct organizers and chapter chairs, along with instruction sheet; they are also available through MaryAnn Carlese at the PSC office mcarlese@pscmail.org)
Return them to PSC.

PETITION TO DOCUMENT SENIORITY are also now available. ALSO AVAILABE through adjunct We need job security and seniority provides for this.

(The group agreed that comments would not be personalized, just reported)

Objection that petition addresses “administration” broadly, whereas it is usually the department chairs who hire the adjuncts and deal with them face to face. Response that the word “administration” is to be construed broadly, i.e., whomever represents the college on labor issues.

Recommendation that adjuncts consult with chapter chair when contract campaign is coming to the campus.

Suggestion that it would be good to have more contract updates.

A discussion of the contract ensued regarding problems and possible timeframe.

Adjuncts need to come out to contract campaign meetings and have a voice.

We need faces and direct contact to promote contract issues for adjuncts at these contract campaign meetings – i.e. being a presence within the union and with the union against management.

Point made that it is difficult for adjuncts to spend time due to their lack of time and contingent status. We need to inspire them and ask chapter chairs to have adjunct issues on chapter agendas. We need to speak up there.

Counterpoint that the union itself would pay more attention to adjunct interests if these contract campaign meetings had a good showing from adjuncts asking questions and expressing their concerns.

Pointed out that people like to go to demonstrations more than they like meetings. We need action events.

Another member felt we need grassroots organizing at the sites. We need adjunct organizing committees on each campus.

We now have ten adjunct organizers covering most, though not all, of the campuses.

We need to get students involved too. Last time that we did a contract campaign (Teach CUNY?) we successfully included students in it as part of that campaign.

Can we get reports from the campus organizers next meeting.

Survey results from 2000 have not been available, organizers need information.

It is a difficult situation for contingent workers and we still have no basic rights. We need a good scheme for organizing – equal pay for equal work.

We need a day to have some member organizing conference – draw on our membership.

Question raised of how do we focus our energies? Maybe the contract campaign? Perhaps we need to form ourselves into three committees so we can continue interacting inbetween meetings. The contract campaign meeting didn't mention adjuncts until an adjunct brought it up.

Suggested to develop a flier with all of the adjunct contract issues so we can use it for organizing.

We need to join with students and promote their issues as well as our own. Be visible on campus.

The overall theme repeated was that we, as contingent workers, need to be more involved in the chapters.

CUNY day is now CUNY WEEK (like CEW). It starts March 15th this year. What kind of ideas come forward for CUNY WEEK? Strategy meeting on Feb. 27th, Fri, at 4pm.

Suggestion: post adjunct pension article around.

Also, we've made a lot of progress with grievances. We should publicize that.

Next adjunct affairs committee First Friday meeting is on March 5th at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vinny Tirelli
Sunday, February 08, 2004