

PSC-CUNY Delegate Assembly

Minutes May 20, 2010

Amended June 22, 2010

Present:

BARKER	EC	DISALVO	BAR	MINEKA	L
BATSON	EC	DICK	BCC	HALABI	L, ALT
BOWEN	EC	MAZZATENTA	BCC	SHEN	LGCC
BRANDON	EC	VILLAFANE	BXOC	HILL	MCC
BUCHSBAUM	EC	DUNKEL	CCO	MELTZER	MCC
CERMELE	EC	CARR	CLT	MOORMAN	MCC
COHEN	EC	JOHNSON	CLT	POST	MCC
DESOLA	EC	MCINTYRE	CLT	VOZICK	MCC
FABRICANT	EC	SHERMAN	CLT	CROCCO	MCC, ALT
FRIEDHEIM	EC	CASON	CSI	JAMES	NYCT
FRIEDMAN	EC	GOLD	H	RUDDEN	NYCT
GILL	EC	VAZQUEZ	H	DAVISON	Q
LEWIS	EC	COLÓN	HCC	EISENSTEIN	Q
LINDSKOOG	EC	STEINBERG	HCC	ENGLISH	Q
LONDON	EC	DIGERONIMO	HEO	MUKHERJEE	Q
MENNA	EC	RODRIGUEZ	HEO	SANUDO	Q
MORAN	EC	WINTER	HEO	BARBANEL	QCC
NEWFIELD	EC	BORNSTEIN	JJ	SELTZER	RET
PANAYOTAKIS	EC	CLARKE	JJ	BALMUTH	RET, ALT
PIMENTEL	EC	MAJUMDAR	JJ	LEBERSTEIN	RET, ALT
VASQUEZ	EC	WILLIAMS	JJ	CLINE	Y
WEISBLATT	EC	SEITZ	JJ, ALT	FRANK	Y
GRASSMAN	B	ROONEY	KCC	GONZALEZ	Y, ALT
ROMER	B, ALT	HALLIDAY	L		

Staff:

ALLADIN, FAYE	GABRIEL, BARBARA	MURRAY, ROB	WRIGHT, CAROL
BELL, DEBBIE	GERGELY, JOHN	REUSING, ALEX	ZAUDERER, NAOMI
BERGEN, DEBRA	GRAF, BRIAN	RODRIGUEZ-ROBBINS, NICOLE	ZWIEBACH, PETER
BERGER, MORIAH	MAGALHAES, AMANDA	SIMMONS, ALISA	
BRILL, DEIRDRE	MUÑOZ, ALBERT	TARLETON, JOHN	

Guests: Gallagher; John (BMCC); Thomas, Karen (BMCC); Pacifi-Elejalde, Geniece (C); Wu, Cheryl (CSI); Crownover, Linda (H); Gaboury, Jennifer (H); Baptiste, Gregory (HCC); Lilly, Marva (JJ); Leslie-Pierre, Janet (KCC); Washington, Paul (MEC); Douglas, Andrew (NYCCT); Hunter, Lise (NYCCT); Tidal, Abubakar (NYCCT); Arenal, Electa (RET); Bridenthal, Renate (RET); Hyland, John (RET); Perlstein, Jim (RET);

I. Approvals

A. Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda approved. (Motion: C. Williams; second: P. Rudden)

B. Minutes

Motion to accept April minutes approved. (Motion: A. Friedman; second: C. Williams)

II. President's Report and Discussion – B. Bowen

- President Bowen expressed gratitude for the contributions to the PSC made by chapter chairs who are stepping down after spring elections: Santiago Villafañe, Amy Nicholas, Jean Weisman, Rebecca Hill (stepping down at the end of the summer), Edward Catapane, Fred Matcovsky, Jacob Judd. She welcomed newly elected and re-elected chapter chairs and delegates.
- PSC has won an award from AFT for its work on racial and ethnic diversity in the CUNY and Race Project.
- The temporary restraining order preventing the State from implementing furloughs remains in effect. There is a hearing 5/26 seeking a preliminary injunction; if the preliminary injunction is granted, the union may seek a permanent injunction.
- Committee of 500: More than 500 members have joined the committee at chapter meetings.
- Early Retirement Incentive (ERI): The proposed State legislation allows public employers, including CUNY, to opt in. CUNY hasn't decided yet. The EC voted to send a letter to the chancellor expressing concern about effects of ERI on the current workforce and the importance of replacing all who retire, but also stating the union's position that the University should participate in the ERI. Eligible CUNY faculty and staff should have the opportunity to maximize their retirement income and participate in the ERI.
- Adjunct Overloads: The union continues to work to meet the needs of adjunct instructors and department chairs who have been affected by the union's decision to end management abuse of the waiver provision. Department chairs report that the Spring 2010 transition period has helped. Union officers have held meetings at CSI and John Jay, which accounted for a large portion of the overloads, and have approached CUNY to discuss a settlement.
- Research Foundation field employees are trying to finalize a first contract at three campuses: NYCCT, LaGuardia, and the Graduate Center. Rally at RF office while board of directors meets, Monday 5/24, 2:00-3:00pm.
- Report on NYSUT policy regarding use of standardized tests in teacher evaluations and controversy surrounding the issue.
- Report on outcome of PSC resolutions at NYSUT RA:
 - **NYSUT Statement on Proposed New Community College at CUNY:** Passed.
 - **Enough! NYSUT Will Not Tolerate Further Budget Cuts to Public Higher Education:** Resolution was merged with a similar resolution submitted by UUP and the final document passed with strong support.
 - **Opposition to the War in Afghanistan:** The resolution passed in committee. A substitute motion from the UFT passed on the floor.
 - **Financial Disclosure of Charter Schools** co-sponsored by the PSC: Passed.
 - **Comprehensive Workplace Programs Needed to Control the Spread of the H1N1 Flu Epidemic:** The resolution was referred to the Board of Directors.
 - **Opposition to Taxing Retiree Pensions** co-sponsored by the PSC: Passed.

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III. Administrative Items

A. Legislative Report – S. London

- Many K-12 and higher education issues are prominent in Albany. PSC opposed to proposed Higher Education Empowerment Act; it follows a model promoted by the new SUNY chancellor, which will increase privatization, reduce public accountability and raise tuition.
- State budget still stuck; some movement on millionaires' tax to increase revenues. We're continuing to push for restoration of \$84.4 million cut from senior college funding.
- NYSUT support memo on anti-bullying legislation, which passed the State Senate, was distributed. NYSUT advocacy of legislation is the result of PSC resolution at earlier RA.
- PSC borough legislative committees are growing and scheduling local district meetings. Met with UFT borough committees on issues of common concern and joint support for candidates.
- Mayor's executive budget: PSC's position is to restore funding needed to maintain this year's spending levels (\$35 million), to restore city council scholarship and program initiatives (\$20 million), and support CUNY's capital budget plan for prioritized projects and critical repairs and maintenance (\$127 million).
- Treasurer's Report – M. Fabricant

Summary of Financial Report for March 2010:

Income: \$1,249,000	Expenses: \$1,372,000	Deficit: (\$123,000)
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Year-to-date (7 months):

Income: \$8,837,000	Expenses: \$8,719,000	Surplus: \$118,000
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Motion to accept the March Financial Report was approved. (Motion: I. DeLutro; second: H. Eisenstein)

Commentary: Good news is that we're "in the black." Surpluses in recent years have been the result of growth in membership; growth in members' earning and vacant budgeted positions. As the contract expires and union staff is more stable, this will change.

B. Executive Director's Report – D. Bell

- Union asking members at CUNY to sign a petition in support of RF field workers seeking first contract (petition distributed). It will also be emailed to all members, encouraging them to sign.
- Elections Committee Report: The elections committee certified the results of the spring chapter elections on May 12th. Newly elected representatives start their terms of office May 26th. Three contested elections were conducted by the AAA. Ten uncontested elections were conducted by the PSC office staff.

Motion to accept the Elections Committee Report was approved. (Motion: J. Buchsbaum; second: B. Friedheim)

- Rose Pignataro, Assistant to the Executive Director, is resigning to take a position that does not require her current two-hour commute.

Announcement: Lenny Dick reports that chapter members and students at Bronx Community College will be protesting at the BCC Commencement, where Governor Paterson is the scheduled commencement speaker.

President Bowen reviewed the outline of proposed and approved resolutions to bring to AFT.

Motion to consider the resolution on Resistance to Austerity for Public Employees before considering the international resolutions was approved. (Motion: A. Friedman; second: H. Meltzter)

- 1) **Motion to adopt Resolution to Support Reinstatement of Pell Grants for Incarcerated Persons and College-in-Prison and Reentry Programs, with suggestion to shorten the title, was approved.** (Motion: M. Newfield; second: R. Cermele)

BE IT RESOLVED, that AFT lobby to have federal legislation introduced and passed to restore PELL grants for prisoners and ex-prisoners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFT develop and disseminate educational materials to inform its members and their communities of the realities of the economic, social, and crime-reduction efficacy of college-in-prison and reentry programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFT develop written and electronic media to publicize its support of in-prison college and reentry college programs to members (P through 16) as well as to make these available to neighborhood communities and students, through teach-ins, educational forums, and town hall meetings and hearings.

- 2) **Motion to adopt resolution AFT Will Resist Attempts to Use the Economic Crisis to Impose Austerity on Public Workers and Privatize the Public Sphere was approved with request from President Bowen to add some potential refinements to the whereases and the title.** (Motion: C. Williams; second: G. Dunkel)

Resolved, that the AFT name and oppose the attacks on public workers as an assault on all working people and on society at large, and that AFT intensify its resistance to corporate media or political forces demanding privatization and retrenchment of the public sphere; and be it further

Resolved, that the AFT mount a national campaign against the imposition of austerity on public workers; and that the AFT support the efforts of working people both in the United States and internationally to renew the public sphere as they resist austerity and privatization policies invoked by both the private sector and state; and be it further

Resolved, that the AFT provide substantial assistance to local unions and state federations that seek to reverse the agenda of forced austerity and privatization.

- 3) **Motion to adopt resolution against repression of teachers and trade unionists, violations of academic freedom and freedom of expression, and for the withdrawal of US recognition of the illegitimate government of Honduras, the convocation of a National Constituent Assembly and new presidential elections, as amended, was approved.** (Motion: B. Bowen; second: R. Cermele)

Be it therefore resolved that the AFT join the growing number of unions and human rights organizations calling on the Obama administration and the State Department to withdraw recognition of the Lobo government, cut ties to the Honduran military, including ongoing training at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly known as the School of the Americas), demand the convocation of a National Constituent Assembly to draft a new Constitution and the celebration of new presidential elections after its ratification; and

Be it further resolved that the AFT strongly condemn the Lobo administration for continued human rights violations and call for the full return of democracy to Honduras, the protection of all education workers, human rights defenders, and media workers in Honduras; and **Be it further resolved** that the AFT stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Federation of Teacher Organizations of Honduras, and with teachers and unionists around the world.

- 4) **Motion to adopt resolution on Haiti as amended failed.** (Original motion: C. Lindskoog; second: G. Dunkel)

- 5) Rather than considering the proposed resolution, For Healthy Workplace and Against Bullying, President Bowen recommended that the PSC leadership work with the maker of the motion to incorporate language from the 2009 AFT resolution on bullying.

V. Old Business

Resolution to Honor CUNY Distinguished Professor Frances Scott Piven was approved by acclamation.

VI. New Business

- Vote on DA Calendar for Fall 2010 will be conducted by email.
- Proposed Resolution in Support of Striking Students at the University of Puerto Rico will be sent to the EC for consideration.

Motion to adjourn was approved. (Motion: C. Williams; second: A. Rodriguez)

Respectfully submitted,



Arthurine DeSola
Secretary