PSC/CUNY Delegate Assembly
Minutes: September 22, 2011

Present:
Delegates:

BARKER  EC  FEIGENBERG  C  PHILIPP  L
BATSON  EC  WILNER  C  EGGER-SIDER  LGCC
BOWEN  EC  DUNKEL  CCO  WALTERS  LGCC
BUCHSBAUM  EC  SCALICI-  CCO  CROCCO  MCC
CERMELE  EC  CARAGIULO  CCO, ALT  FORD  MCC
COHEN  EC  JEU  CLT  GRONOWICZ  MCC
DELUTRO  EC  LITTLEHAWK  CLT  KURTZ  MCC
DESOLE  EC  MCINTYRE  CLT  MELTZER  MCC
DIRAIMO  EC  SHERMAN  CLT  MOORMAN  MCC
FABRICANT  EC  GRAHAM  CLT, ALT  OFFENHOLLEY  MCC
FRIEDHEIM  EC  PETRATOS  CSI  POST  MCC
FRIEDMAN  EC  GABOURY  H  RAUSHER  MCC
GILL  EC  GOLD  H  BERRY  MEOC
LONDON  EC  GOODMAN  H  PETTAWAY  MEOC
MENNA  EC  JOHN  H  CUORDILEONE  NYCT
MORAN  EC  COLÓN  HCC  DOUGLAS  NYCT
NEWFIELD  EC  STEINBERG  HCC  JAMES  NYCT
PANAYOTAKIS  EC  ABREU  HEO  MASON  NYCT
PEARLMAN  EC  CHITTY  HEO  SANUDO  Q
PIMENTEL  EC  GALLAGHER  HEO  BARBANEL  QCC
SPEAR  EC  NELSON  HEO  CESARANO  QCC
VASQUEZ  EC  PACIFI-ELEJALDE  HEO  KUSZAI  QCC
WEISBLATT  EC  WASHINGTON  HEO  MARSH  QCC
ESTEY  B  WU  HEO  MERTZ  QCC
GRASSMAN  B  CROWNOVER  HEO, ALT  SINCLAIR  QCC
WILLS  B  LILLY  HEO, ALT  HOCK  QCC, ALT
HILL  BAR  CLARKE  JJ  KLAU  QCC, ALT
WINE  BAR  GATES  JJ  KOTELCHUCK  RET
DICK  BCC  MAJUMDAR  JJ  LEBERSTEIN  RET
MAZZATENTA  BCC  NARKUNAS  JJ  MCCALL  RET
PERSINGER  BCC  MARKOWITZ  JJ, ALT  PERLSTEIN  RET
WOLF  BCC  NELSON  JJ, ALT  SELTZER  RET
APOSTOLAKIS  BCC, ALT  OKAMOTO  JJ, ALT  BALMUTH  RET, ALT
MUÑOZ  BXEOC  PITTMAN  JJ, ALT  BERGER  RET, ALT
UTAKIS  BXEOC  BARNHART  KCC  WURMAN  RET, ALT
BALDWIN-JONES  C  ROONEY  KCC  CLINE  Y
BARNETT  C  YARMISH  KCC  FRANK  Y

Staff:

ALLADIN, F.  CLARK, F.  HERST, J.  MURRAY, R.  TARTLETON, J.
BELL, D.  GABRIEL, B.  HUGHES, S.  PFORDRESHER, K.  VANDENBURGH, J.
BRILL, D.  GERGELY, J.  MAGALHAES, A.  REILLY, A.  WRIGHT, C.
CHENG, I.  GRAF, B.  MUNOZ, A.  ROSATO, D.  ZAUDERER, N.
       SIMMONS, A.  ZWIEBACH, PETER

Guests:

Dan Cantor (WFP); Oskar Kuszai; Marilyn Neimark (Ret.); Mike Vozick (BMCC)
I. Approvals
   A. Agenda
      Motion to accept the agenda was approved. (Motion: H. Meltzer; second: A. Sherman)
   B. Minutes
      The June minutes were distributed; to be voted on in October.

II. President’s Report and Discussion – Barbara Bowen
    • Visual tribute to John Jay Chapter Chair Carl Williams, who died during the summer. In addition to PSC’s $500, delegates contributed $532 for his children’s scholarship fund. President Bowen thanked the John Jay Chapter Executive Committee for keeping the chapter together.
    • Bowen announced that CC Officer Carl Lindskoog resigned this summer to accept a full-time faculty position at Raritan Valley CC. Nominations will be taken and a vote held at the October DA.
    • CUNY Bylaws Revision – In response to intense pressure by members organized by the PSC, including a letter signed by nearly 1,000 faculty in a single afternoon, the CUNY Board of Trustees rescheduled the vote on proposed Bylaw revisions from June to September, and now again from September to November; PSC expressed serious concerns about some of the proposed revisions and about the lack of University-wide discussion of the changes.
    • There is an agreement in principle with CUNY to make the Paid Parental Leave benefit permanent starting in 2012; still need to finalize the agreement.
    • The CUNY Board approved a revised general education/transfer policy in June over substantial and vocal faculty opposition, a resolution of opposition from the University Faculty Senate and more than resolutions from campuses and departments across the University. The PSC is preparing to file litigation against the University’s action.
    • The report on this summer’s research on the impact of budget cuts at the department level, including non-reappointment of adjuncts, will be made at the October DA.
    • Upcoming events: The first Labor Goes to the Movies of the year on Friday; PSC-sponsored conference on Defending Public Higher Education on 10/7 at Grad Center; Defending the Social Safety Net Forum on 10/25 sponsored by PSC Retirees Chapter; Forum to announce preliminary findings from CUNY & Race research project in Nov. or Dec.
    • Collective Bargaining Update:
      • Continuing to work on various side agreements like continuation of payroll agreement (which included 15 weeks of pay for adjuncts), continuing paid parental leave benefit, various calendar agreements.
      • There has been very little movement and no financial offer from CUNY. Bowen discussed relevant negotiations of other public-employee unions in New York City and State, and the union’s collective bargaining strategy in the current political moment.
• PSC is continuing to build a coalition to demand that the richest 3% of New York taxpayers not receive a tax break in December. Bowen discussed the relation between the State’s budget deficit for next year, which could be resolved by continuing “the millionaires’ tax,” and the demand for layoffs and concessionary contracts.

• The Adjunct Health Insurance Campaign is a key component of the PSC contract campaign, one we cannot lose; ensuring health insurance for eligible adjuncts takes on the heart of the labor contradiction in higher education where there are increasing numbers of adjuncts teaching more and more courses with inadequate benefits. After the demonstration on September 26 at the Board meeting, and organizing activities on the campuses in Oct., we will be back at the BOT hearing Nov. 21st maintaining the pressure on CUNY to ensure ongoing funding of adjunct health insurance.

III. Administrative Action Items
A. Treasurer’s Report – M. Fabricant

Income: $1,129,000 Expenses: $1,015,000 Surplus: $114,000
Year-to-date (11 months)
Income: $14,245,000 Expenses: $14,338,000 Deficit: $93,000

PSC received less income than projected, but spent less than projected, particularly because some staff positions were unfilled and because of adjustments in the reimbursement formula the PSC negotiated with NYSUT.

Motion to accept the May, June and July Treasurer’s reports was approved. (Motion: I. DeLutro; second: J. Pittman)

B. Executive Director’s Report – D. Bell

Staff changes: Jennifer Bills, Organizer, resigned.
New Staff: Ida Cheng, Professional Assistant to the President
Sarah Hughes, Organizer
Arsenia Reilly, Coordinator of Contract Administration & Outreach
Jonathan Vandenburgh, Organizer

IV. Reports and Action Items
M. Neimark, Chair of Elections Committee discussed proposed revisions to PSC Election Rules that had been mailed to Delegates and received comments from Delegates.

Motion made to amend Article III 2.d. (Motion: R. Yarmish; second: J. Gallagher) was initially ruled out of order. Motion to consider the amendment at the next DA was tabled. (Motion: J. Gallagher; second: I. DeLutro).
Motion to accept revised Election Rules with minor amendments in language suggested from delegates was approved with no dissenting votes. (Motion: M. Neimark on behalf of Elections Committee)

V. Old Business
None.

VI. New Business
In response to recommendations by the PSC Legislation Committee and the PSC Solidarity Committees, the Executive Council voted to recommend affiliation with the Working Families Party. First V.P. Steve London introduced Dan Cantor, WFP Executive Director, who presented the WFP’s history and electoral accomplishments and how it works.

Delegates raised questions and comments. There will be further discussion and a vote on whether or not to affiliate at the October DA.

VII. Treasurer’s Report – Part II – Proposed PSC Budget 2011/12 – M. Fabricant
- There will be a budget review meeting before the next DA; at the next DA, Delegates will vote on the proposed budget.
- Last year, PSC projected 5% growth; this year only 3% growth.
- The budget reflects the union’s political priorities, such as support for campaigns for increased funding for CUNY, for a strong collective bargaining agreement, for funding of adjunct health insurance, for defense of our members’ rights and responses to their needs.
- It also reflects areas of growth and new initiatives.
- Increased expenses this year: the cost of university-wide elections, an intense contract campaign and work related to new space needed for additional staff, among other increases.

VIII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn was approved. (Motion: M. Fabricant; second: R. Cermele)

Respectfully submitted,

Arthurine DeSola
Secretary