PSC/CUNY Delegate Assembly
Minutes: January 30, 2014

Present:

Delegates:

BATSON     EC     BARNETT     C     COOGAN     LGCC
BOWEN      EC     FEIGENBERG   C     DURAND     LGCC
BRANDON    EC     WILNER       C     EGGER-SIDER LGCC
BUCHSBAUM  EC     GRAHAM       CLT    LYNCH      LGCC
CERMELE    EC     JEU          CLT    ROGERS-COOPER LGCC
COHEN      EC     LITTLEHAWK  CLT    FARRELL    L
DELOURO    EC     MCINTYRE     CLT    PHILIPP    L
DESLA      EC     RICHARDSON  CLT    HATCHETTE  MEOC
DIRAIMO     EC     SHERMAN      CLT    CRAWFORD   ME
FABRICANT  EC     SANCHEZ      CSII   ALBANY     NYCT
FRIEDHEIM  EC     TOURNAKI     CSI    CUORDILEONE NYCT
HATCHETT   EC     BRENNAN     HEO    DOUGLAS    NYCT
LONDON     EC     CARAGIULO    HEO    LANSIQUOT  NYCT
NEWFIELD   EC     CHITTY       HEO    MACDONALD  NYCT
PANAYOTAKIS EC     CRUZ-EUSEBIO HEO    MASON      NYCT
PEARLMAN   EC     GALLAGHER    HEO    VEY        NYCT
PERSINGER  EC     MUCHITA     HEO    EISENSTEIN  Q
SPEAR      EC     ROBERTS      HEO    MUKHERJEE  Q
VASQUEZ    EC     WEEKES       HEO    SANUDO     Q
VAZQUEZ    EC     WINTER       HEO    ZEVIN      Q
WASHINGTON EC     BERNARDINI  HCC    BARBANEL   QCC
PETERSSEN  BAR     STEINBERG  HCC    CESARANO   QCC
WINE       BAR     AGATHOCLEOUS H      LAU       QCC
CROCCO     BMCC    ANGOTTI     H      MESSIER    QCC
FREAS      BMCC    GOLD        H      SINCLAIR   QCC
GRONOWICZ  BMCC    JOHN        H      STARK      QCC
KURTZ      BMCC    MIRER       H      ZINGER     QCC
MELTZER    BMCC    CLARKE      JJ     BALMUTH    RET
MOORMAN    BMCC    MAJUMDAR    JJ     GREENBAUM  RET
OFFENHOLLEY BMCC    MAMELI     JJ     KOTELCHUCK RET
DEGIERE    BXCC    PITTMAN     JJ     LEBERSTEIN RET
DICK       BXCC    CLARKE      JJ     MCCALL     RET
LAWTON     BXCC    BARNHART    KCC    PERLSTEIN  RET
MAZZATENTA BXCC    CALLY      KCC    CLINE      Y
ESTEY      B       ROONEY      KCC    FRANK      Y
WILLS      B       SHEIDLOWER  Y

Staff:

Alladin, F.  Cheng, I.  Herst, J.  Munoz, A.  Tarleton, J.
Bell, D.    Clark, F.  Hogness, P.  Pfordresher, K.  Vandenburg, J.
Bergen, D.  Gabriel, B.  Hughes, S.  Rasiotis, S.  Young, P.
Black, A.   Gergely, J.  Lasher, R.  Reilly, A.  Zauderer, N.
Brill, D.   Graf, B.   Magalhaes, A.  Rosato, D.  Zwiebach, P.
Guests:

Harry Cason (CSI); John Lawrence (CSI); Michael Seitz (BMCC)

I. Approvals
A. Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda was approved. (Motion: A. Pearlman; second: R. Cermele)

B. Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes was approved. (Motion: J. Gallagher; second: Jack Zevin)

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

- President Bowen acknowledged the loss of Mike Vozick, adjunct activist, and of Pete Seeger.
- Bowen thanked those who participated in the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education conference and especially Mike Fabricant, who led the PSC’s contribution to organizing the event.
- Resolution in support of Universal Pre-K in New York City: Motion to accept the resolution entitled “PSC endorses UPKNYC Campaign” was approved. (Motion: B. Bowen; second: S. Scheidlower)
  Therefore be it resolved, that the Professional Staff Congress will lend its support to win home rule legislation in Albany allowing New York City to raise income taxes for this purpose; and
  Be it further resolved, that the Professional Staff Congress endorses the UPKNYC campaign, will provide financial support, pledge to mobilize our members and students, and contribute as called upon to assure the campaign’s success.
- Statement in opposition to two current bills in the State Legislature that would punish Constitutionally protected speech at institutions of higher education in New York by withholding State funds: Motion to accept the statement entitled “PSC Opposes NYS Senate Bill S. 6438 and NYS Assembly Bill A. 8392” was approved. (Motion: B. Bowen; second: S. London)
  The PSC will work with its membership and all of its affiliates to oppose S. 6438 and A.8392. We call on adherents of academic freedom to join us.
- CUNY will have a new chancellor, J. B. Milliken. Bowen issued a statement asking him to honor the 92% vote in opposition to Pathways, negotiate a fair contract with the PSC and aggressively advocate for increased public funding for CUNY.
- Collective bargaining – PSC is prepared to go into economic bargaining, and we have commenced work on some non-economic issues. Even without being in formal bargaining, PSC and CUNY have addressed paid parental leave, phased retirement, adjunct health insurance, a 21-hour course load at NYCCT, salary increases for CLIP teachers, and a new program for PSC/CUNY grants.
• The NYSUT Representative Assembly will be in April.

III. Administrative Action Items

A. Treasurer’s Report – M. Fabricant

Monthly Financial Report – November

Summary of Financial Report for the month:
Income: $1,549,000 Expenses: $1,266,000 Surplus: $283,000

Summary for the year-to-date (3 months)
Income: $4,467,000 Expenses: $4,403,000 Surplus: $64,000

Year-to-date (3 months)

A $90,000 deficit was budgeted for the first three months. The November financial statement shows a surplus. PSC spent $61,000 less than budgeted and received $93,000 more income than anticipated. This situation will change in coming months.

Motion to accept the November financial report was approved. (Motion: H. Meltzer; second: A. Sherman)

B. Executive Director’s Report – D. Bell

Elections Committee Report – An election was held for representation of the Brooklyn EOC: Felicia Wharton was elected chair, Angel Calderon, Vice Chair and Welfare Fund Representative, Irene Dashebsky, Secretary.

Motion to accept the elections committee report was approved. (Motion: A. Pearlman; second: A. Sherman)

Pre-printed nomination forms for chapter elections are now available. They are due back March 3. There will be an informational meeting on election rules on February 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Staff changes: Adrienne de Ross is retiring April 2. John Tarleton is resigning to go back to The Indypendent. Sarah Hughes is leaving to coordinate the internship program at the Murphy Institute. Delegates expressed their appreciation for the important contributions of these members of the PSC staff.

IV. Reports and Action Items

• HEO/CLT Time Sheet Campaign – I. DeLutro

HEO and CLT activists have collected more 1,550 signatures on the petition, and signatures continue to come in. CUNY must understand and resolve the concerns our members have with the timesheets. As part of the campaign, HEO and CLT leaders have visited all the campuses, and have held many hundreds of conversations with members—learning about their concerns and building their connection to the union.

• State Budget Campaign – S. London

Sign up sheets for lobby days on February 25 and 26 are circulating. We will have to work hard to support our vote earlier tonight to oppose the anti-academic freedom bills in the
State Legislature. The union is preparing testimony on the State budget. PSC already has people working on the Dream Act and EdTPA. More member activists are needed. The Governor’s budget proposes to fund only a flat amount for Maintenance-of Effort, leaving a gap of nearly $50 million—which will be filled with scheduled student tuition increases for 2014/15 unless it is addressed by the Legislature.

NYSUT has launched a campaign to increase funding for public higher education called “NY is a State of Mind.” It calls for an endowment to fund full-time faculty positions at CUNY and SUNY. The Black/Puerto Rican/Hispanic caucus has new leadership and is poised to become a progressive force in the State Legislature.

March 3 and 4 are the Committee of 100 lobby days. April 9 is CUNY at the Council. Local district lobbying will by May 1 and 2 and June 12 and 13.

The PSC Retirees Chapter was awarded a $25,000 Solidarity grant from NYSUT to fund the Social Safety Net campaign.

- B. Bowen reported that Anne Friedman will receive NYSUT’s higher education award and participants in Occupy Sandy will be honored with a community service award at the NYSUT RA.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

L. Cohen suggests having reports from the campuses on the Pathways campaign at the next meeting.

J. Gallagher suggests forming a working committee on CUNYfirst to prepare a report for the new chancellor. There are major registration and enrollment problems.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM was approved. (Motion: A. Pearlman)