

PSC/CUNY Delegate Assembly
 Minutes February 17, 2011

Present:

Delegates:

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|-----------------|----------|------------|----------|
| BARKER | EC | SHERMAN | CLT | MELTZER | MCC |
| BOWEN | EC | PETRATOS | CSI | MOORMAN | MCC |
| BRANDON | EC | GABOURY | H | POST | MCC |
| BUCHSBAUM | EC | GOLD | H | HUTCHISON | MCC, ALT |
| CERMELE | EC | JOHN | H | AWOLABI | ME |
| COHEN | EC | PERNA | H, ALT | CRAWFORD | ME |
| DESOLA | EC | STEINBERG | HCC | HATCHETT | ME |
| DIRAIMO | EC | ABREU | HEO | DOUGLAS | NYCT |
| FRIEDHEIM | EC | BRENNAN | HEO | MASON | NYCT |
| GILL | EC | CHITTY | HEO | DAVISON | Q |
| LINDSKOOG | EC | GALLAGHER | HEO | EISENSTEIN | Q |
| MENNA | EC | MUCHITA | HEO | MUKHERJEE | Q |
| MORAN | EC | PACIFI-ELEJALDE | HEO | SANUDO | Q |
| NEWFIELD | EC | RODRIGUEZ | HEO | BARBANEL | QCC |
| PANAYOTAKIS | EC | THOMAS | HEO | BORRACHERO | QCC |
| PIMENTEL | EC | WASHINGTON | HEO | CESARANO | QCC |
| VASQUEZ | EC | WINTER | HEO | KUSZAI | QCC |
| WEISBLATT | EC | WU | HEO | MARSH | QCC |
| DEXTER | B | CROWNOVER | HEO, ALT | HYLAND | RET |
| GRASSMAN | B | BORNSTEIN | JJ | KOTELCHUCK | RET |
| PARMAR | B | MAJUMDAR | JJ | LEBERSTEIN | RET |
| JOHNSON | B, ALT | WILLIAMS | JJ | MCCALL | RET |
| HILL | BAR | ROONEY | KCC | PERLSTEIN | RET |
| HITCHCOCK | BAR | PHILIPP | L | SELTZER | RET |
| DICK | BCC | FARRELL | L, ALT | BALMUTH | RET, ALT |
| PERSINGER | BCC | MUNCH | L, ALT | WURMAN | RET, ALT |
| BARNETT | C | LYNCH | LGCC | CLINE | Y |
| GREEN | C | CROCCO | MCC | FRANK | Y |
| DUNKEL | CCO | GRONOWICZ | MCC | | |
| MCINTYRE | CLT | KURTZ | MCC | | |

Staff:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| ALLADIN, FAYE | CLARK, FRAN | MUÑOZ, ALBERT | ROSATO, DIANA |
| BELL, DEBBIE | GABRIEL, BARBARA | MURRAY, ROB | SIMMONS, ALISA |
| BERGEN, DEBRA | GERGELY, JOHN | PFORDRESHER, KATE | WRIGHT, CAROL |
| BILLS, JEN | GRAF, BRIAN | TARTLETON, JOHN | ZAUDERER, NAOMI |
| BRILL, DEIRDRE | HOGNESS, PETER | REUSING, ALEX | ZWIEBACH, PETER |

Guests:

Thomas Burgess (BMCC); Linda Caspe (BMCC); Mike Vozick (BMCC); Harry Cason (CSI); Evelyn Burg (LGCC); Verna Green (ME); Earlean Smiley (ME); John Graham (NYCT); Mr. Santiago (RET)

I. Approvals

A. Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was approved. (Motion: J. Gallagher; second: R. Cermele)

B. Minutes

Motion to accept the December minutes was approved. (Motion: C. Post; second A. Sherman)

II. President's Report and Discussion – Barbara Bowen

President Bowen began by noting that items from January's agenda are included tonight because the January DA was cancelled due to snow.

- Bowen announced that the Elections Committee has certified a vacancy on the Executive Council, as a result of the retirement of Steve Trimboli. Nominations will be taken at the next DA, following the procedures in the Constitution.
- President Bowen noted the political changes that had occurred since the last DA, especially in North Africa and the Middle East, and closer to home, the challenges to public employee benefits and collective bargaining in general in states across the US.
- In NY, as in many other states, the crisis is political, not economic; NY State has a structural deficit that can be addressed by careful, systematic reform of the state's regressive tax system. A critical first step is not giving the highest-earning 3% of people in New York a tax break by allowing the income tax surcharge to expire.
- Gov. Cuomo's proposed state budget includes a total \$95.1 M funding cut to senior colleges next year, a \$17.5M cut to community colleges and two key issues of "mandate relief": changes to teachers' (K-12) due process and elimination of the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law, which permits contractual elements to remain in place if a new contract has not been negotiated after the contract expiration date.
- Mayor Bloomberg announced his proposed City Budget today which includes a \$35M cut to community colleges.
- Bowen discussed the PSC's strategy in advocating for CUNY with the legislature, and announced the events below. PSC's Legislative Program was distributed.
 - student/faculty lobby day, Albany, 3/15
 - Higher Education lobby day, Albany, 3/7-8
 - “CUNY at the Council” City Hall, 5/4
 - PSC CUNY-wide day of action, 5/5

-lobbying at district offices—every week

- NYSUT passed a resolution proposed by PSC to fight proposed cuts, and will be mounting an ad campaign upstate.
- Two major recent victories:
 - assertion of academic freedom at Brooklyn College, in reinstating a graduate employee whose course had been revoked after political complaint
 - improved enforcement of health and safety at CUNY after PESH citation of CUNY on Workplace Violence Prevention policy

III. Administrative Action Items

A. Treasurer’s Report – Mike Fabricant

Summary of Financial Report for December 2010 (Because the budget is cumulative, the November Report that would have been given in January is incorporated):

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Income: \$1,434,000 | Expenses: \$940,000 | Surplus: \$494,000 |
| Year-to-date (4 months): | | |
| Income: \$5,581,000 | Expenses: \$5,101,000 | Surplus: \$480,000 |

Over four months, we have spent \$306,000 less than budgeted and received more income than anticipated. With the new environment, this picture will change. Because of ERI there will be fewer F/T employees, and our budget campaign expenses will begin to grow.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was approved. (Motion: R. Cermele; second: M. Abreu)

B. **Motion to approve Resolution Establishing Research Foundation Field Unit Chapter was approved unanimously.** (Motion: C. Post; second: A. Gronowicz)

RESOLVED, that Professional Staff Congress establish a CUNY Research Foundation Field Unit Chapter and designate the existing CUNY Research Foundation Chapter as the CUNY Research Foundation Central Office Chapter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the CUNY Research Foundation Field Unit Chapter elect chapter officers (pursuant to Article IX, Section 4 of the PSC Constitution) and delegates (Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2a.) at the time of the regular union election at least 6 months following ratification of the collective bargaining agreement covering represented employees of the CUNY Research Foundation field units; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the required dues payments by employees represented by the CUNY Research Foundation Field Unit Chapter be modified such that the dues rate, as a percentage of Research Foundation compensation, shall be:

- 0% for the first 12-month period following ratification of the collective bargaining agreement;
- 0.50% for the second 12-month period following ratification of the collective bargaining agreement;
- 0.75% for the third 12-month period following ratification of the collective bargaining agreement.

At the start of the fourth 12-month period following ratification of the collective bargaining agreement, the dues rates for full-time and part-time employees represented by the CUNY Research Foundation Field Unit Chapter shall be the same as the dues rates for all other PSC-represented employees.

C. Executive Director's Report – Deborah Bell

- Delegates were encouraged delegates, particularly chapter and committee chairs, to visit and update information on the new website.
- Francis Clark, new PSC Communications Coordinator, was introduced.
- Elections Committee Report:
 - vacancy certified for Chair of Registrar's Chapter, Jayne Zweig retired
 - vacancy certified for Hunter Chapter Vice Chair and delegate, Mark Goldberg retired
 - Shirley Rausher moved from alternate to delegate when Joyce Moorman became chapter chair

Motion to accept the Elections Committee Report was approved (Motion: J. Gallagher; second: H. Meltzer)

D. Elections Committee

Of 14 committee members, 2 have retired, and 8 must be removed because they are running for office this spring.

- S. London placed the following names in nomination (second: M. Fabricant):
- for Committee members: R. Cermele, D. Kotelchuck, M. Newfield, C. Panayotakis
 - for Alternate Committee members: J. Barbanel, I. DeLutro, A. Friedman. S. Leberstein, P. Lewis, E. Moran

As no other names were placed in nomination, the Secretary cast one vote in favor, and the new Committee members and alternates were approved.

IV. Reports and Action Items

A. Motion to Accept Proposed Resolution: Call for Education Rally at Gov. Cuomo's NYC Office during the NYSUT Representative Assembly was approved. (Motion: B. Bowen; second: E. Moran)

RESOLVED, that the agenda of the Representative Assembly include a strong, militant and peaceful march from the RA at 53rd Street and Sixth Avenue to the Governor's Office at 40th Street and Third Avenue and a rally in front of the Governor's Office, and that the march call for investment—not disinvestment—in education and public services, and demonstrate mass opposition to freezing the Triborough Amendment and the protections of due process for teachers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the march and rally be held whether the State Budget has been passed or not, as such a mass action provides an opportunity to communicate to the Governor our commitment to education and our position on fair taxation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT members and other union members through the state, but particularly in New York City—together with the communities with which we work—be encouraged to join the delegates at the march and rally.

B. CUNY Budget – Steve London

- PSC can make a difference against damaging budget proposals/everyone can do something—challenge NY Senate Republicans from NYC and Black & Puerto Rican Caucus Assembly members to fund CUNY adequately and ensure student access.
- Last spring PSC made a real difference in the city budget—we went from Mayor's proposed cut to a net funding increase by City Council; we have to do the work again.
- CUNY's Budget Director says there will be no further budget reductions at the community colleges during Spring 2011.

C. Union Action – May 5th – Mike Fabricant

- Meetings and other activities on campuses will lead up to a CUNY-wide PSC action on May 5th.

V. Old Business – Special DA

- **Motion to accept date of 3/31 for Special DA was approved.** (Motion: C. Post; second: G. Dunkel)

VI. New Business

- **Motion to accept proposed resolution, Solidarity with Labor Unions in Wisconsin (language to be reviewed for accuracy), was approved unanimously.** (Motion: J. Moorman; second: G. Brandon)

RESOLVED, the Professional Staff Congress condemns this proposed legislation and extends support to affected labor unions in Wisconsin.

VII. Motion to adjourn was accepted. (Motion: M. Perna; second: A. Vasquez)