

PSC-CUNY Delegate Assembly
 Minutes June 17, 2010

Present:

BATSON	EC	KRITT	CSI	GRONOWICZ	MCC
BOWEN	EC	PETRATOS	CSI	HILL	MCC
BRANDON	EC	GOLD	H	MOORMAN	MCC
BUCHSBAUM	EC	GOLDBERG	H	OFFENHOLLEY	MCC
CERMELE	EC	VAZQUEZ	H	POST	MCC
COHEN	EC	STEINBERG	HCC	SAAVIK-FORD	MCC
DELUTRO	EC	ABREU	HEO	HUTCHISON	MCC, ALT
DESOLA	EC	BRENNAN	HEO	MARTIN	MCC, ALT
DIRAIMO	EC	MUCHITA	HEO	MEDINA	MCC, ALT
FABRICANT	EC	NELSON	HEO	RAUSHER	MCC, ALT
FRIEDHEIM	EC	NURSE	HEO	AWOLABI	ME
FRIEDMAN	EC	PACIFI-ELEJALDE	HEO	CUORDILEONE	NYCT
GILL	EC	RODRIGUEZ	HEO	HUNTER	NYCT
LONDON	EC	WASHINGTON	HEO	MASON	NYCT
MORAN	EC	WINTER	HEO	RUDDEN	NYCT
NEWFIELD	EC	CROWNOVER	HEO, ALT	HARRIS	NYCT, ALT
PANAYOTAKIS	EC	LILLY	HEO, ALT	TIDAL, JR.	NYCT, ALT
PIMENTEL	EC	BORNSTEIN	JJ	MUKHERJEE	Q
VASQUEZ	EC	CLARKE	JJ	SANUDO	Q
WEISBLATT	EC	COHEN	JJ	CESARANO	QCC
DEXTER	B	RICHARDSON III	JJ, ALT	KUSZAI	QCC
BANK	B, ALT	ROONEY	KCC	LEVY	QCC, ALT
HILL	BAR	YARMISH	KCC	ZWEIG	REG
MAZZATENTA	BCC	SCHNEIDER	KCC, ALT	HYLAND	RET
MUÑOZ	BXOC	HALLIDAY	L	KOTELCHUCK	RET
BARNETT	C	MINEKA	L	MCCALL	RET
GREEN	C	PHILIPP	L	SELTZER	RET
DUNKEL	CCO	COOGAN	LGCC	BALMUTH	RET, ALT
CARR	CLT	SHEN	LGCC	WURMAN	RET, ALT
JOHNSON	CLT	CARTER	LGCC, ALT	FRANK	Y
MCINTYRE	CLT	DURAND	LGCC, ALT	SHEIDLOWER	Y, ALT
SHERMAN	CLT	FRANK	LGCC, ALT		
PEARLMAN	CLT, ALT	CROCCO	MCC		

Staff:

ALLADIN, FAYE	GERGELY, JOHN	RAJENDRA, DANIA	SIMMONS, ALISA
BELL, DEBBIE	HOGNESS, PETER	REUSING, ALEX	TARLETON, JOHN
BERGEN, DEBRA	MAGALHAES, AMANDA	RODRIGUEZ-ROBBINS, NICOLE	WEISS, CLARISSA GILBERT
GABRIEL, BARBARA	MURRAY, ROB	ROSATO, DIANA	WRIGHT, CAROL

Guests: Cirasella, Jill (B); Peña, Aisha (BAR); Ellis, Lisa (BAR); Athanasourelis, John (BCC); Villafañe, Santiago (BxEOC-Ret); Domínguez, Daisy (C); Cason, Harry (CSI); Roccas, Linda (CSI); Bernstein, Jay (KCC); Mogensen, Vernon (KCC); O'Malley, Susan (KCC); Farrell, Robert (L); Alexander, Chris (LGCC); Gallagher, Kristen (LGCC); Ovadia, Steve (LGCC); Matthews, Patrice (MCC); Tournas, Ioannis (MCC); Vozick, Mike (MCC); Gumbs, Jean (MEC); Wang, Henry (Q); O'Brien, Tony (RET); Urban, Sandra (Y)

I. Approvals

A. Agenda amended to include

- a. 15 minute discussion of contract campaign strategy and organizing. (Motion: C. Post; second: F. Pimentel)
- b. Addition to New Business: discussion of advance notice of DA agenda to chapters. (Motion: R. Hill; second: H. Meltzer)

Motion to accept the agenda, as amended, approved. (Motion: M. Phillip; second: I. DeLutro)

- B. May DA minutes to be voted on by Delegates in September.

Motion to vote approved minutes in September approved. (Motion: R. Cermele; second: D. Kotelchuck)

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

- A. Main things on the union's agenda have been the machinations related to the state budget and the city budget:

- On 5/26, public unions won a preliminary injunction against imposition of furlough—second major victor after temporary restraining order earlier in the month; it's a significant victory against the false idea that public employees are the cause of the state budget deficit.
- Governor Paterson has linked his proposed Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) to passage of a budget. PHEEIA is gaining support in the state senate because SUNY wants it. PHEEIA will have major negative consequences for CUNY—differential tuition, higher at elite four-year colleges, the potential for 9%+ annual tuition increases and less state funding. The PSC is strongly opposing it and will be urging members to continue to send letters to the legislature; at this point, to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assembly Higher Education Chair Debra Glick, asking them to stand firm against PHEEIA, as they have been. The Assembly has proposed restoring the governor's proposed cuts to community colleges and to TAP, but no one has supporting restoring \$84 million in proposed cuts to senior college funding.
- PSC protested Governor Paterson's proposed cuts to CUNY when he spoke at the Bronx Community College commencement on 5/28.
- S. London will speak on the positive work the union has been doing with the City Council about the city budget.
- PSC participated in the municipal unions' "Save Our City" rally at City Hall on 6/16. (Delegates saw a brief video of B. Bowen's and UFT President Michael Mulgrew's remarks at rally.)

- B. Other matters:

- Close to agreement on improved PSC/CUNY grant program which retains faculty control, adds a little more money, and, above all, resists management's efforts to assert control.
- NY City has asked for bargaining on health benefits; unions will not negotiate reductions as long as lay-offs are planned.
- Solidarity work has been continuing with other unions and with immigrant students in support of the DREAM Act. PSC supported students' recent hunger strike at Senator Schumer's office.
- Rally at the RF Board of Directors meeting in support of RF field unit employees who are negotiating a first contract had an impact.

- PSC has recommended that CUNY opt in to the Early Retirement Incentive and ensure maximum replacement.
- PSC has signed the annual letter of agreement concerning adjuncts' ability to teach during Fall Two sessions at LaGCC and KCC, without it being an overload.
- In addition to pressing for job stability for long-term adjuncts, the union will be working to document departments with high turnover among adjuncts and the extent of adjuncts being non-reappointed (laid-off) for economic reasons.

III. Analysis of Chapter Meetings to Prepare for Collective Bargaining

A. Report

- B. Bowen: Officers wanted to hear from members about the next round of bargaining; verbatim notes were taken for the bargaining team.
- Bowen introduced the bargaining team approved by the EC: The four principal officers, B. Bowen, S. London, A. DeSola, M. Fabricant; four vice presidents, R. Cermele, I. DeLutro, A. Friedman, M. Newfield; plus M. Batson, L. Cohen, D. Menna, F. Pimentel, S. Trimboli, A. Vasquez.
- Bargaining team will be meeting over the summer to review members' concerns and will bring a draft bargaining agenda to the EC at its September special meeting, then to the DA in September or October. It's powerful to present a bargaining agenda that covers the whole union. The DA will vote on the bargaining agenda before it is presented to management.
- Handouts were distributed to delegates (same as at chapter meetings), summarizing the gains of the last three contracts and the identification of long-term priorities at the start of the last round.
- Two questions for delegates: 1) How do conversations you've had with members inform your sense of what the PSC bargaining agenda will include? 2) What demands do you anticipate management will raise?

B. Discussion - Delegates raised a series of issues over the next hour which were recorded and will be presented to the bargaining team.

C. Strategy and organizing for contract campaign:

- Bowen started by pointing out that the issues raised constitute an ambitious agenda and will cost money. We know it will be a hard period for collective bargaining, but the union has already put in place several important elements:
 - The political campaign for more revenue: fighting against cuts and for increases in state and city funding for CUNY.
 - Committee of 500: 570 members have already signed up.
 - Projects to build support among members around issues are well under way:
 - FUSE at 3 campuses, about stability of teaching faculty
 - Task force on HEO promotions
 - HEO organizing around payment for overtime
- Delegate C. Post said it will be important to hit the ground running in the fall with a contract campaign even if demands aren't spelled out yet. Need to agitate, rally, organize, in order to be maximally strong. Need to build momentum. Suggested giving delegates tasks.

- Another speaker suggested group discussions on campuses in late summer.
- Timing of the beginning of bargaining is still a question; bargaining team will discuss strategic planning when it meets this summer.
- Delegate A. Bornstein noted that full-time faculty at senior colleges had not spoken out during this meeting; they need to get more involved.

IV. Administrative Items

A. Treasurer's Report – D. Bell for M. Fabricant

Summary of Financial Report for April 2010:

Income: \$1,336,000	Expenses: \$1,894,000	Deficit: (\$558,000)
---------------------	-----------------------	----------------------

Year-to-date (8 months):

Income: \$10,174,000	Expenses: \$10,613,000	Deficit: (\$439,000)
----------------------	------------------------	----------------------

Motion to accept the April Financial Report was approved. (Motion: I. DeLutro; second: H. Meltzer)

Note: Deficit for April was nearly \$300,000 more than projected because of advance per capita payments prior to NYSUT RA, three staff payrolls during the month, and one-time reassigned time payment to CUNY. Budget will move closer to projected deficit over the next couple of months, but return to surplus is not likely.

B. Executive Director's Report – D. Bell

PSC Elections Committee certified election of Jennifer Gaboury as delegate at Hunter College to replace Frank Kirkland.

Motion to accept the Elections Committee certification was approved. (Motion: L. Cohen; second: S. Sheidlower)

C. Legislative Report – S. London

- Poll after poll, study after study show the public supports increasing taxes over cutting public services, but NY State elected officials persist in wanting to cut, they just can't agree on how.
- Federal relief has not materialized yet (for teacher salaries and health care)—if it doesn't come through, the State's \$9 billion deficit will become \$10 billion.
- State legislation on unemployment insurance for adjuncts is stuck in finance committee—please send Act Now letter (on website) to press for passage.
- Legislation to keep the return on supplemental annuity plans at 8.25% is awaiting the governor's signature.
- Bullying legislation (largely affects students) passed by Senate. Assembly wants to amend.
- By law, City budget must be passed by 6/30; Council wants to restore \$36 million in funding to community colleges, plus \$20 million for scholarships. PSC has worked effectively with the Council's Higher Education Committee and met with Council Progressive Caucus members about building a coalition prospectively to fight for increased revenues.

V. Old Business – None

VI. New Business

A. **Motion to adopt resolution of support for the Mott's Workers on Strike in Williamson, NY, as amended, was approved.** (Motion: B. Bowen; second: M. Frank.)

RESOLVED, that the PSC stand with the more than 300 courageous members of Local 220 in their strike, as they stand up to corporate greed, not only for themselves but for all workers; workers are not "soybeans"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the PSC join other participants in the labor movement in condemning DPS's attempt to take advantage of the recession and subsequent unemployment to force wages and benefits down; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the striking Mott's workers, RWDSU/UFCW, NYSUT and DPS President and CEO Larry Young.

B. Delegate R. Hill asked that DA Agendas be prepared and distributed more in advance to chapter chairs so they can have discussions at chapter meetings of upcoming DA agenda items and so delegates can more accurately represent members' perspectives on issues.

Motion to adjourn was approved. (Motion: S. Sheidlower; second: I. DeLutro)

Respectfully submitted,



Arthurine DeSola
Secretary