

FSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 3/12/15

Members Present: Peggy Walsh Marlene Kim Amy Todd Ursula Tafe Doreen Drury Heike Schotten Loan Dao Tina Mullins Mary Oleskiewicz Linda Dumas

Others Present: Lorenzo Nencioli, Membership Coordinator Caroline Coscia, NTT Grievance Officer Jeff Keisler, TT Grievance Officer Al Leisinger, NTT Grievance Officer

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. *Academic Analytics*: Software program analyzes how faculty compare to peer institutions—publications, grants, awards. Admin purchased software to track research for 1,000's of research faculty. Admin noticed we are low on awards so need to up number. Marlene will meet with Provost and will tell him that UMB can't use this to evaluate faculty. There was discussion of access to failure rates for the same software used at UMA. Tina will analyze software/data for UMB administrators. Question was raised re how much UMB spent on this. Marlene will raise issue of cost at next Faculty Council meeting. Will also check with Office of Treasurer.
2. *Ex Com elections*: FSU started the process—we sent out an email blast.
3. *GIC benefits and premiums*: Premium split will increase if Gov budget passes (20% to 25% for those hired before 2003; those hired after already paying 25%). MTA will have a campaign to fight this when it goes before House and Senate.
4. *Jobs with Justice steering committee meeting*: March 19 6 pm.
5. *Governor's early retirement incentives*: Excludes higher education employees according to MTA. 'Backfill' language=20%. That is, state agencies can only replace 20% of early retirees so UMB will not try to be a part of it. However, if members feel this is important despite 'backfill' language we can ask MTA lobbyists to push for UMass to be included in the legislation.
6. *FSU is on Twitter!:* We are @FSU_UMB. You don't have to have Twitter to be able to see it/read it. Go to Twitter.com and search that name (@FSU_UMB).
7. *Update on contracts*: Legislation that recently passed House includes validation of contracts for UMB. Senate won't take it up until 3/19. Problem of funding remains (i.e. raises not part of validation legislation).
8. *Union actions re contract funding battle on Wednesdays*: 10 am next wed March 18 2nd floor Quinn before elevators. Coffee with Keith. 12 noon Wed March 25 Speakout on health care costs with no raises. Lorenzo will identify FSU members who want to testify re GIC/health care burdens.
9. *JCC and UMA*: At last JCC meeting, proposed budget was adopted and JCC officers were elected. However, there was not further discussion over issues potentially related to dissolution of JCC (i.e separating the 2 chapters).

B. BUSINESS

1. *FSU Annual meeting:* Wed April 22 W-1-006 12-2 or Th April 30 12-2 pm Chancellor's Conference room? Chancellor's Conference Room is preferred.
2. Contract funding and funding campaign: We had big all-union meeting (more than 200 people) 2 weeks ago. Many people marched to Chancellor's office right after meeting to demand raises be implemented. Public safety prevented group from going to 3rd floor. Care Corner-Dollof from HR spoke to the group by the elevators, 2nd floor, Quinn. The Boston Globe reported on event. This past Wednesday (3/11/15), union members gathered at 12 again. Ellen O'Connor DID come down. Meeting was 'uncomfortable', said UMass already spent money allocated to system, raises would have to be funded via an additional supplemental appropriations bill. MTA is trying to determine the meaning of a statement of a legislator who said UMass did NOT get enough money. April 8 Trustees meeting 9:30 am Worcester, there will be action, also April 1st for Integrated Sciences Complex groundbreaking. There will also be a postcard campaign addressed to Trustees (to be handed out at Wednesday events). There was discussion of whether or not the FSU should do a petition or postcard campaign and of the need to reach out to students. It was decided that both the postcard and the petition should happen and that the petition should be online. Al will devise petition once he gets postcard language. Marlene will ask union coalition if the group would like to hire a videographer to make short videos on this issue (latter will need some compensation).
3. *CLA 2:2 evaluation:* Marlene reported that she asked for data from CLA Dean re class size numbers, number of sections taught by NTT versus TT faculty, etc. She noted that we can only get data for last 2 or 3 years. The FSU will conduct a poll of CLA members and chairs concerning their assessment of the 2:2 pilot program. Question was raised as to whether or not there any entities looking at student perspective. There was discussion of the language and content of the member poll and of the report from the CLA Senate concerning request to departments for positives and negatives of program.
4. *JCC selection process within UMB:* It was agreed that the Ex Com needs to review JCC bylaws before voting on a process to select FSU members to JCC, though it was agreed that there needs to be set term limits. Will vote on at next meeting.
5. *Newsletter content:* There was discussion of the content of the FSU newsletter and whether or not members read the articles. Questions were raised as to whether or not to reduce content, reduce 'scope' of newsletter (i.e. have fewer stories on 'broader' FSU or union issues and more on FSU updates). It was noted that some colleagues of Ex Com members never read the articles while some Ex Com members find the articles informative. It was also noted that past and current FSU newsletters are available on the website and that the FSU is working with website provider to enhance accessibility of newsletter articles online. It was agreed that there needs to be an FSU Communications Committee to look at overall communications issues with members. Amy, Mary, and Tina will be on this committee. Question was raised as to whether or not the FSU could do a brief podcast re union issues. There was discussion

of various media options for FSU communications. Marlene asked Ex Com members to talk to colleagues, ask what newsletter/communications content they prefer.

6. *Policy on FSU Twitter and Facebook accounts:* Discussion of who is authorized to post and what can be posted. It was agreed that the Communications Committee will review this.
7. *NEA Representative Assembly, July 1-6, Orlando, FL:* AL will attend. Motion to designate AL as an FSU local delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly. Motion seconded. **Motion passes.**
8. *FY 15 budget issues:* Discussion of remaining budget issues for current FY. Main issue is the need to agree to a stipend amount for Tracy Wallach and Ellen Frank (part-time NTT grievance officers) and a stipend amount for Rachel Rubin, who did some grievance work this semester TT. It was agreed that Rachel will get \$750 for her work for Spring 15 and Tracy and Ellen will get \$1,500 each for their work in Spring 15. Motion to pay Rachel Rubin \$750 for grievance work done during Spring 15 and to pay Ellen Frank and Tracy Wallach \$1,500 stipends each for their work as part-time NTT grievance officers for Spring 15 is made. Motion is seconded. **Motion passes.** Also, issue of FSU party at end of year, t-shirts for activists, and/or PHENOM donation (cannot do first 2 if we give PHENOM money). Discussion of merits of each: it was noted that there is enough difference of opinion to hold off on PHENOM vote and that an FSU party is a good idea for community building. Discussion of worth of PHENOM, especially re NTT issues. It was noted that PHENOM organizes Lobby Day, which is useful to UMass and FSU members. It was agreed that the FSU would not be giving to PHENOM this year.