

UDMPU Board
Minutes of March 13, 2007 meeting
C&F 118

Present: Stokes Baker, Mike Canjar, Cindy Gillham, Mary Higby, Heather Hill-Vasquez, Clint Hirst, JoAnne Isbey, Kris McLonis, Tricia Thomas, Larry Zeff

Excused: Stephen Manning, Jill Spreitzer, Prasad Venugopal
Absent: Doug MacDonald

Announcements

The meeting began at 12:50 with the announcement of the birth of Venugopal's son. Canjar also informed the board members in attendance that he had received materials from the National Education Association (NEA) announcing its annual meeting and representative assembly taking place in Philadelphia from June 30 through July 5. Anyone interested in attending this event can get more specific information from Canjar.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 27 meeting. The motion carried. Thanks were expressed to McLonis for taking the minutes for the board meetings over the last two months.

March 27 Elections

Isbey stated that an agenda for the meeting on March 27, at which elections would take place, needed to be created. Hirst pointed out the conflict that had been created by the scheduling of a faculty debate by the University's Honors Program, in disregard to the email sent out by Academic Vice President Barbara Schirmer on January 2 asking deans not to schedule meetings at the same time as the UDMPU membership meetings on January 11 and March 27. Canjar and Zeff will raise the issue of the conflict at the Executive Liaison meeting later in the day.

At the time of the meeting, Canjar had been nominated to run for president, Zeff for vice-president, and McLonis for treasurer. All three accepted the nominations. Hill-Vasquez was nominated to run for secretary; she accepted the nomination. McLonis pointed out that someone would also need to be elected to fill the position of Michigan Education Association (MEA) representative if she is indeed elected as treasurer. In addition, a new Michigan Association of Higher Education (MAHE) representative would need to be elected because Spreitzer is unable to continue serving in that capacity.

Isbey said that she would send out a flyer reminding UDMPU members of the March 27 election; Canjar will send out reminder emails. Thanks were expressed to those serving on the Election Committee.

Treasurer's report

Hirst announced that there is currently \$109,948.95 in funds; activity up to the time of the meeting has consisted of UDMPU dues coming in and dues to MEA and NEA going out. Hirst also reported that two of the union's six fee payers are in various stages of delinquency, one of the two seriously. Human Resources will be notified of this faculty member's continued delinquency and asked to inform this person of the

consequence of termination. (This matter will also be brought up at the Executive Liaison meeting later in the day, to give advance warning.)

Hirst asked about the activities of the Audit Committee. Baker said that the committee had not yet met, but that a meeting is scheduled. As soon as possible after the meeting, the committee will give a report to Hirst.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Grievance report

Zeff read the report submitted by Manning. In this report, Manning stated that he has compiled a list of four lawyers with whom the board could possibly consult to discuss the ramifications of switching affiliation from MEA to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). When he and Baker have had a chance to compare the lists of lawyers that each has compiled (to avoid duplication of efforts when making calls), preliminary contacts will be made. Manning had learned that consultation will probably cost between \$500 and \$1000, taking into account two hours of preparation time on the part of the lawyer(s) and one hour of presentation.

In the grievance report, Manning also stated that he had received a request from Suzanne Mellon, Dean of the College of Health Professions (CHP), to join a task force to explore the rank of faculty in that college who are on tenure track but lack the currently accepted terminal degree. (The precedent of promoting these faculty members to the rank of Assistant Professor after two years' employment if they are in a Ph.D. program is in violation of the UDMPU contract.) Manning believed that the necessary task force work could be accomplished with a few meetings of the key constituents – Dean Mellon, CHP faculty, UDMPU representatives (Manning stated suggesting Zeff in particular to join him on the task force), and Schirmer.

Thomas gave some background information on the current situation regarding acceptable "terminal" degrees for nursing faculty. For many years, the Ph.D. in Nursing was the highest-level degree that a nurse could earn. The problem is that there are very few nurses wishing to become college or university professors who already possess that degree. In order to attract any nursing faculty at all, the CHP has been hiring nurses currently working on a master's degree in nursing. Once these nurses earn this degree (average time is two years), they are eligible for continued employment on the clinical (non-tenure track). The clinical track exists specifically for those nursing professors who are unable or unwilling to do the extra coursework and research to earn a Ph.D. and become eligible for tenure-track employment.

Further muddying the waters, according to Thomas, is the growing support in the nursing profession for a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. This type of doctorate degree has not yet received universal approval; but future candidates for teaching positions in the nursing program of the CHP may possess this degree instead of a Ph.D. in Nursing.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the grievance report as written by Manning and delivered by Zeff. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris McLonis