

September 26, 2006  
UDMPU General Membership Meeting  
Life Sciences 113  
12:45-2:00pm

**Members present:** Jim Graves, Cindy Gillham, Nancy Chesik, Heather Hill-Vasquez, Tony Martinco, John Dwyer, Larry Zeff, Barry Dauphin, Suk Kim, Kate Lanigan, Maureen Anthony, Tricia Thomas, Jim Tubbs, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Todd Ray, Doug MacDonald, Stephen Manning, Vicki Mantzopoulos, Michael Barry, Carla Groh, Mark Ottenbriet, Joette Lambert, Sandra Cleveland, Gail Mitchell, Joslen Letscher, Mark Benvenuto, Mary Higby, Mike Canjar, Clint Hirst

**I. Meeting was called to order at 12:50pm.**

**II. Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda. Motion passed.

**III. Announcements**

Father Stockhasuen will speak to group on October 31, 2006 at 12:45

**IV. Minutes of March 30, 2006 Meeting**

Minutes approved as presented. Hirst stepped forward to accept the Treasurer's position in May.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

We have \$82,581.22 on hand in accounts. The Labor Department recently audited our books and they found the books to be acceptable. The dues to the MEA are now calculated on a percentage basis. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

**VI. Grievance Report**

Manning reported that there is one outstanding grievance, which concerns the provision of faculty parking stipulated in the contract. The administration has attempted to correct the parking issue. He indicated the role of the Grievance Officer is as much attempting to prevent grievances as it is to file and argue them, so many issues are resolved prior to and without having to file a grievance.

Examples of such issues include: travel voucher reimbursement for conference attendance, determination of class size, mandatory blackboard usage, external letters for promotion and tenure, the role in personnel matters of an interim Chair of a Department who is not a member of the bargaining unit, and a mandatory laptop program. All of these issues have been raised, typically at the monthly Executive Liaison meeting between UDMPU and the UDM administration, before they become grievances. The AVP has been generally responsive and has usually followed up appropriately. A member requested that pre-grievance issues be posted on the website or in a letter to the membership.

Another member wanted more information on class size. Manning discussed some of the issues surrounding class size. Ottenbriet had a question about handicapped parking in the engineering lot near Life Science. Manning will email Letitia Williams, Director of Public Safety, to try to facilitate getting

the handicapped parking spots repainted appropriately. Manning indicated that there is a spot on the parking committee for a faculty member, and asked for a volunteer to serve on same; no one volunteered. Schaad asked: "What is the largest class size?" Ottenbriet has a class of 108 students in biology but there is a cap in Chemistry of 100 students. Last winter there were 147 student in one class in Chemistry. This year one class has 100 and the other has 87. In Chemistry, there is some money for assistants. Ottenbriet noted that each students pays \$100 for lab fees. Groh asked: "How many credit hours you get for teach large classes?" Motion to accept the grievance report. Motion carried.

#### **VII. Contract Maintenance Report**

Zeff reports that we are in year 4 of a 5 year contract. We can open the contract in two areas this year: (1) economic issues and compensation and (2) ratio of full time faculty to adjuncts. Last year we felt it would not be good to open the contract but this year but this year there is a surplus in the budget. We should be considering re-opening the contract so we could address economic issues and percent of courses taught by full-time faculty. Dwyer feels it is better to be on the offensive. Groh wonders if we should open the contract for this year how long would it cover. Zeff notes that it would impact only next year. He reminded us that if we do not open the contract we will receive a 3 percent increase. Ray asks what improvements were considered in the TIAA-CREF give back two years ago. At convocation, Stockhausen itemized where money would go to renovate all three campuses. For the most part the money will go to support a new dental school, a renovated law school, and a new multipurpose athletics building on the McNichols campus. Lambert wonders if we might be able to talk about domestic partners benefits in a contract re-opening. Zeff reports that would have to be considered in the next contract negotiations. Ottenbriet questions if it would be advisable to start contract negotiations for the next contract now since contract negotiations have been very slow. Groh wonders if we should reopen contract negotiations. Zeff feels that we should strongly consider reopening the current contract. Chesik questions if the contract is reopened would we end up with less than 3 percent.

Canjar reports that Stockhausen will be coming to speak to a special union meeting on October 31. Zeff reports that the administration is very clear that union members are very upset about the give-back on the 403B two years ago. He further states that we have been told that McNichols was Father Stockhausen's main concern. The spending on improvements on McNichols does not appear to reflect this. Trust between the administration and union members has been challenged many times including the 403B giveback. Hirst points out that there is a question of good faith between the administration and the faculty.

Move to adjourn. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary A. Higby