

UDMPU General Membership Meeting
Minutes— 03/25/10

Present: Rob Berg, Morgan Bills, Donald Burkholder, Mike Canjar, Roy Finkenbine, Garbette Montie Garraway, Cindy Gillham, James Graves, Amanda Hiber, Mary Higby, Gary Hillebrand, Bob Homant, Joslen Letscher, Doug MacDonald, Lorri MacDonald, Stephen Manning, Victoria Mantzopoulos, Kris McLonis, Mostafa Mehrabi, Gail Presbey Jennifer Rike, Donna Roe, Nart Shawash, Raphael Shen, Katy Snyder, Jill Spreitzer, Carmen Stokes, Jim Tubbs, Prasad Venugopal, Kate Walters, Carol Weisfeld, Joanne Yastik, Larry Zeff

I. Call to Order

Canjar thanked Nomination committee and UDMPU members for help with the food, drinks, and utensils.

Canjar reviewed proposed meeting agenda and invited members to add items.

A motion was made to approve the proposed agenda and the motion passed.

II. Announcements

(a) Great Colleges Survey- Canjar stated that an email has gone out to UDM faculty from the university administration with a request that faculty complete the Great Colleges Survey. Canjar indicated that faculty should do the survey.

(b) CLAE Vouchers- Canjar announced that Rob Berg, CLAE Representative on the UDMPU board, has recently sent an email out to CLAE faculty calling for a meeting to discuss the voucher issue.

III. Minutes

Canjar asked all in attendance to review the minutes of the 01/26/10 General Membership meeting and to comment on the need for any corrections or additions.

Venugopal stated that Section VII. CLAE Vouchers, Paragraph 7, should be changed to state that he would forward documents pertaining to the CES faculty assembly to any interested CLAE faculty.

Manning stated that Section V. Grievance Report, paragraph (c), last sentence should be changed to state that changes made due to the equity study would be implemented in years 3 through 5 of the contract.

Canjar stated that D. MacDonald should be listed as Secretary and not as Acting Secretary.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the 01/26/10 General Membership meeting with the aforementioned changes and the motion passed.

IV. Election of Officers

Canjar turned the meeting over to Venugopal who proctored the election process.

Venugopal announced five nominations as follows: For President- Mike Canjar; For Vice-President- Larry Zeff; For Treasurer- Kris McLonis; For Secretary- Doug MacDonald; For MEA/MAHE Representative- Kate Walters.

While some nominations were made for College representatives to the UDMPU Board, Venugopal indicated that representatives are selected by College caucuses and not through a vote of the general membership.

A motion was made to close the nominations and the motion passed.

A motion was made to elect the above nominees by acclamation and the motion passed.

V. Treasurer's Report

McLonis reported that there is a total of \$128,085.70 in UDMPU Bank accounts with \$58,045.96 in Checking and \$70,039.74 in Savings. McLonis indicated that since the General Membership meeting in January 2010, account activities included the following: In Checking- a check went out to MEA for \$17,667.64 and a check came in from UDM for \$17,453.08. A service charge of \$32.81 was also made. In Savings, an interest payment was made of \$5.37.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report and the motion was passed.

VI. Grievance Report

Manning provided an update on a number of items discussed in the January 2010 General Membership meeting including the following: (a) Change of grade of student without faculty approval/support: Manning reported that ADA considerations factored into this situation. After investigating the matter, both the UDMPU and university administration have concluded that we have to abide by federal law. Based upon this, the UDMPU did not file a grievance. (b) Online programs- Manning stated that the UDMPU has inquired with university administration about when the UDMPU will be able to see documents/reports related to online programs. The AVP has said that the distance learning report will be made available to the UDMPU after it has been reviewed and processed by the administration. (c) Equity study- Manning said that a committee has been formed and they are now awaiting data to begin the study.

A motion was made to accept the Grievance report and the motion was passed.

VII. Executive Liaison

After briefly describing the membership and general functions of the Executive Liaison (EL) (i.e., it is a committee comprised of UDMPU officers, the Academic Vice-President, Vice-President of Human Resources, and Vice-President of Finance that meets once monthly to discuss issues), Canjar discussed a number of issues that have been taken up at EL including the following:

(a) Emergency issues- Canjar reported that some recent events including an inclement weather day, water and electricity outages have raised issues concerning the university policy for school closures. In talking about this issue with university administration at an EL meeting, we were told that decisions regarding whether or not the university will be closed are typically made around 5:00am. In essence, the administration said that as long as the parking lots can be plowed then the school will be open.

Discussion among UDMPU members in attendance of the General Membership meeting ensued and highlighted problems that the university has not only with decision making regarding building and school closures but also with how the university community is notified.

Weisfeld reported that the issue has been taken up at MFA. In particular, MFA has noted a pattern on the part of the university of failing to make decisions and communicate information to faculty and students. Weisfeld indicated that such problems not only impact working conditions of faculty (and thus fall under the purview of the UDMPU) but also student retention (e.g., Weisfeld stated that students have been upset by how the university has handled inclement weather and other emergency situations).

Venugopal asked what should UDMPU members and the university community demand from the administration regarding emergency issues. Weisfeld replied that we need a well thought out emergency plan. Venugopal then inquired as to whether or not the development and implementation of an emergency protocol would leave the decision making about class cancellation with faculty.

Additional discussion revealed that issues around emergency protocols need to take into consideration students who are on placement at clinical sites.

Venugopal indicated that we should ask the university to issue statements as early as possible about health and safety issues, areas of closure, and provide instructions to faculty to help them be more considerate toward students.

Finkenbine raised issue with the timeliness of Public Safety announcements. He indicated that Public Safety will email announcements to faculty about a problematic event but will not send it out until 2-3 days after the event. Other members in attendance asked if Public Safety could send their announcements in a regular email rather than in a large attachment which takes a long time to open.

Further discussion ensued about rapid response communication. Zeff noted that rapid response was set up through Wayne County. He explained that if communication is important to UDMPU members and the university as a whole then we need to use some type of rapid response system.

(b) Book orders and HEA- Canjar reported that some UDMPU members have complained about a recent email regarding book order deadlines. Canjar provided members with information as to how and where to access the HEA on the internet and reviewed with members in attendance the clause that relates to the need for universities to have book information in a timely manner where practicable.

Finkenbine commented that UDM has known about the HEA and its deadline for years and explained that he takes umbrage with the fact that the university communicated with faculty about the deadline at the last minute

VIII. College Caucuses for UDMPU Board Representatives.

UDMPU members in attendance broke up into caucuses for each College to decide on who will serve as representatives to the UDMPU Board.

Canjar noted that the number of representatives for a College is based upon proportional representation (i.e., Colleges with larger numbers of faculty get more representatives on the board). Given current numbers of faculty, Canjar indicated that the number of representatives for each College is as follows: Liberal Arts and Education- 3, Engineering and Science- 2, Health Professions- 2, Business Administration- 1, Architecture- 1, Library- 1.

As a result of the caucuses, the following UDMPU members will serve as representatives to the UDMPU Board:

Liberal Arts and Education- Robert Berg, Lorri MacDonald, Mike Witkowski
Engineering and Science- Prasad Venugopal (second member still open)
Health Professions- Joanne Yastik, Katherine Marshall
Business Administration- Mary Higby
Architecture- Member still open
Library- Member still open

Canjar stated that the official term of office for new UDMPU Board executives and Board representatives starts May 1, 2010.

IX. Subsequent to the meeting of college caucuses, the meeting spontaneously disbanded at approximately 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted

Douglas A. MacDonald, Ph.D.
Secretary