

MINUTES

Communications Committee – Mark 221-B
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Present: Debbie Blair, Jim Carr, Sally Jo Divis, Mike Geck, Karen Irwin, Val Knox, Virginia Mann, Pete Rauch, Eli Samano, Steve Wiener, Brian Young

I. Donation of Chapter Release Time

The President of Chapter 324 (Channel Islands), Joseph Dobzynski, has asked other campuses to donate excess release time to help support the layoff bargaining team effort at his campus, which is experiencing layoffs. Brian pointed out that Article 5.11 of the contract provides release time for bargaining and labor management meetings; Mike speculated that this donated release time being requested would be for other activists to be involved.

A discussion ensued of how much release time our Chapter still has this year. Mike felt he may have the information filed in his office, but no one recalled seeing a report on this topic. Brian pointed out that there is a statewide pool of 576 days of release time per fiscal year, which may be tapped out since it's used by labor reps to do work throughout the state. Steward training used to provide a Friday release day, and the 2nd day would be Saturday. Now we are being asked to do the entire training in a 12-hour Saturday class – time volunteered by the employee.

Since we are not sure how many hours release time our chapter has available, no decision was taken on contributions to another chapter.

II. CSUEU Board Meeting last month

Mike attended the Board meeting last month, but much of the discussion was behind closed doors so there was not a lot that he could report. The public discussion centered on how campuses statewide can support those that are experiencing layoffs. There doesn't now appear to be a statewide Organizing Committee, but rather a Representation/Organizing joint committee. There is a V.P. for Organizing, but

confusion about what the responsibilities are for this position. Mike came away from the meeting feeling that we should work very hard at the local level on issues particular to our campus.

III. Meeting Room for 2010-11

Virginia Mann will reserve a conference room for next year's CSUEU meetings and asked which room people would prefer - a conference room near our CSUEU office (UH 453) or a Smart conference room with projector and computer in Markstein Hall? It was unanimous that she should try to reserve UH 458 as first choice when Event Scheduling opens up the reservation process next Monday.

IV. Layoffs Statewide - Status

Brian spelled out where campuses stand at this time:

Layoffs: East Bay, Humboldt, San Jose, Fresno, Chancellor's Office. On some of these campuses management appears to be using layoffs to support re-organizing campus units.

No Layoffs: San Marcos, San Diego, San Bernardino, Dominguez Hills, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, Fullerton, San Luis Obispo, Channel Islands, Maritime Academy

Uncertain: San Francisco, Pomona, Sonoma, Sacramento, Bakersfield, Chico, Monterey Bay

Brian felt that our campus chapter's strong efforts to mitigate layoffs had paid off. Perhaps there was not as much push-back at northern campuses, which would explain the apparent pattern. East Bay management and senior labor reps have both signed on to an agreement for time base reductions to positions designated by management, as a means to mitigate extra layoffs on their campus. Humboldt has reached a tentative agreement with the CSUEU bargaining team. These agreements are being offered by management as a model, although staff members at these campuses were not consulted regarding the terms of the agreements. Discussions of whether to ratify or vote on layoff MOUSs are being discussed at the statewide level.

Chapter autonomy should be respected and maintained; our chapter officers and activists would prefer to receive staff input before signing on to any agreement of that magnitude with management.

Brian feels it is crucial for management to permit budget transparency, particularly in the current climate with the specter of layoffs still very much a possibility in the future. The President's office does not want to roll out a push for voluntary time reduction at this time. Mike would also prefer that any VTR programs not be initiated until layoffs are announced, so that savings can go to mitigate those layoffs. If individuals are still interested in VTR, they should be encouraged to use the provision to set time limits on their use of the program.

V. Communications

Brian proposed the following structure for future Communications meetings, and proposed the 1st meeting in May on the 6th be devoted to Communications:

- ❖ What have we sent out (email, web, print, bulletin boards)
- ❖ What new issues have come up?
- ❖ What should we say to employees (email, web, print, bulletin boards)
- ❖ Assignments
- ❖ Deadlines

Brian also suggested a May newsletter. Sally Jo felt that would be a good chance to inform employees about the involuntary time reductions at East Bay, and the agreement that was signed there.

Steve Wiener suggested a catered CSUEU picnic in June, to celebrate the end of furloughs. We could also tie in the subject of time reduction programs, providing a Q & A. Mike said that Tiamo has offered to perform the Furlough Rap live. A tentative date was selected for Thursday, June 24th, before the last furlough weekend.