

United Educators of San Francisco
Executive Board
Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 4:15 p.m.
Minutes

Agenda

1. Roll Call Roberto Michel, Sergeant at Arms
2. Minutes..... Susan Solomon, Secretary

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2006 Executive Board meeting as presented. (The minutes were approved after resolutions.)

Financial Report..... Elaine Merriweather

M/S/C to accept the March 31, 2006 financial report as presented. M/S/C to move into COPE. M/S/C to accept the March 31, 2006 COPE financial report as presented. M/S/C to move out of COPE.

M/S/C as amended **President's Recommendations for Expenditures** Dennis Kelly

1. 2006 CTA Summer Institute – IPD Strand up to \$1,000.00
2. TACT Annual Scholarship Dinner (May 19th) 10@\$40.00=\$400.00
3. Mark Leno's Campaign Kick-Off (April 4) \$250.00
4. AFT - ULI, Asilomar (June 25-30)..... 4@\$579=\$2,316.00
5. ER&D 2006 Summer and Winter Institutes 5@\$500.00=\$2,500.00
6. ER&D Pre-Conference..... 1@\$450.00
7. SF Chamber of Commerce Membership \$680.00
8. CORO Leadership Luncheon (April 21) 2@\$180.00=\$360.00
9. Labor Heritage/Rockin' Solidarity Chorus (April 22, 2006) ... 5@\$50.00=\$250.00
10. UC Labor Center Banquet (April 27)..... 2@\$150.00=\$300.00
11. GGSCC Annual Legislative Breakfast (May 20) 10@\$10.00=\$100.00
12. BASE Conference Costs (April 22) \$200.00
13. Labor Notes Conference (May 2-5)..... 2@\$570.00=\$1140.00
14. AFT/PSRP Conference (April 27-30)..... 2@up to \$700.00=\$1,400.00
15. NEA Representative Assembly (June 30-July 7)..... 10@\$2,100=@21,000.00
17. AFT Convention (July 19-23)..... 10@\$2,100=@21,000.00

18. M/S/C to amend the list of expenditures as follows: UESF will make a donation of \$100 to the Leon Olson Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund will probably be for people entering the printing trades.

19. M/S/C to amend the list of expenditures as follows: 10 tickets at \$45 each for the annual LATA Scholarship dinner = \$450 on April 21.

Tom Edminster explained some background for #13. Release time will not be required for the participants; the individuals attending will be responsible for missed work days.

M/S to send one member to Labor Notes rather than 3, as recommended in the original recommendation. M/S/C to send two members, making the first amendment moot.

Resolutions

1. M/S/C as amended: Resolution Regarding Executive Board Agenda Times....Cynthia Lasden and Michael Leahy

Whereas UESF Executive Board Meetings agendas are typically very full for a two hour time block; and,

Whereas important items that are at the end of the agenda often get less time than they need; and,

Whereas members tend to leave at 6 pm; and,

Whereas agenda time limits will increase the productivity of meetings; and,

Whereas the UESF General Assembly approved a similar resolution for assembly meetings; therefore,

Be it resolved that time limits be allotted to each agenda item and noted on the written agenda; and,

Be it further resolved that speakers be restricted to **three** minutes each; and,

Be it further resolved that the Sergeant of Arms keep time at the meetings; and,

Be it finally resolved that the Standing Rules of Operation for UESF Executive Board be updated to reflect these changes.

In response to a question, Brother Kelly explained that a motion to suspend the Standing Rules of Operation is always in order.

M/S/C amend the second resolved as follows: "Be it further resolved that speakers be restricted to **three** minutes each", rather than *two* minutes, as originally presented.

2. Carried: Brought forward as a passed resolution from the March Assembly meeting: BASE Conference Resolution..... Lisa Gutierrez Guzman, speaking for the PJHR Committee

WHEREAS, our students are the primary targets of the current war effort, both as military recruits and as recipients of educational cutbacks; and

WHEREAS, educators are deeply concerned and often feel powerless when we see our former students enticed into military service to die or to be otherwise traumatized while serving in the Middle East on behalf of corporate oil interests and military contractors; and

WHEREAS, big, anti-war/peace marches in and of themselves have not stopped the Iraqi war; and

WHEREAS, previous anti-war efforts have not always encouraged the leadership of students and educators; and

WHEREAS, our affiliate, U.S. Labor Against the War [USLAW] was a co-sponsor of the New York Educators to Stop the War Conference in the spring of 2005 and UESF also supported the November 2005 Students and Educators to Stop the War Conference in Los Angeles attended by 500 youth and educators; and

WHEREAS, UESF has financially supported USLAW and helped the Los Angeles conference via a reimbursement for one San Francisco educator's expenses;

WHEREAS UESF has contributed \$200 towards the cost of putting on such a conference that brings together students, educators and other anti-war activists;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UESF become an official sponsor of the Bay Area Students and Educators to Stop the War Conference at Mission High School in San Francisco, Saturday, April 22; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that UESF help to publicize the conference in its e-mail blasts and newspaper.

(The final resolved in the original resolution was moot as the donation was already made, so there was a "housekeeping" amendment: Change the final resolved to the final whereas: "Whereas UESF has contributed \$200..."

3. Carried: Resolution to Support Granito De Arena Film Showing (May 27)Tom Edminster, on behalf of the PJHR Committee

Whereas UESF has stood in solidarity with teachers from Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua and other countries of the Americas and elsewhere; and

Whereas UESF recognizes that the "Free Trade" has brought with it the pressure to de-fund, and narrow the quality of public education offered to the diverse population of the Americas; and

Whereas, exposure of the struggles of the teachers and peoples of Mexico is important to educators and the public in San Francisco;

Therefore be it resolved that UESF endorse the showing of the film "Granito de Arena," at the Roxie Theater on May 27th, 2006, an event sponsored by our colleagues and members in Teachers for Social Justice; and

Therefore be it finally resolved that UESF will help to publicize this film and its showing to UESF members and others in a timely and effective manner.

4. Carried: Reso to Support Labor Notes Conference Adrienne Johnstone

Whereas, the Labor Notes conference is an event where labor activists meet to exchange experience and lessons from union struggle around the world, and

Whereas the conference is also an opportunity for UESF members to share their own experience from the struggle for a fair contract for San Francisco educators, and

Whereas our experience has shown we can build union solidarity between Change to Win and AFL-CIO unions in spite of the split, and

Whereas our experience in struggle with SEIU 790 should be shared with other grassroots labor activists, and

Whereas the conference provides a number of workshops that could provide information and discussion which can be brought back into our work in our Executive Board, Labor Council, assembly and our own work sites, and

Whereas UESF has, in the past, sponsored and supported travel for the purpose of educating members, and

Therefore be it resolved that UESF will pay for two members to attend the Labor Notes conference in Dearborn, Michigan May 2-5, 2006; and

Be it finally resolved that conference attendees will make themselves available to report back on information and discussion from the conference to the appropriate body in UESF.

5. M/S/C Resolution in opposition to HR 4437 and any similar bills that seek to criminalize the diverse students, families and communities in San Francisco..... Derrlyn Tom

Whereas HR 4437 that passed the House of Representatives is an anti-immigrant, racist bill that attempts to turn communities against themselves and others,

Whereas HR 4437 that passed the House of Representatives attempts to criminalize our educators, clergy and other people of conscious for providing services or aid to families in need,

Whereas HR 4437 that passed the House of Representatives and similar bills further extend the erosion of our civil liberties (i.e. automatic and indefinite detention for almost all immigrants)

Whereas the US government at the national, state and local level attempt and have successfully passed laws that encourage racial and class division, tensions and hatred

Whereas many of our communities have and continue to be impacted by the legacy of racist legislation passed and proposed throughout US History

Whereas, on March 25 well over one million undocumented workers, legal residents and their supporters took to the streets in Los Angeles in support of the call for amnesty, full legalization and equal rights for undocumented immigrants;

Whereas, on February 16, 2000, the AFL-CIO Executive Council adopted a historic resolution in support of amnesty for immigrant workers and opposition to employer sanctions; Whereas, a demonstration demanding a "General Amnesty for All Undocumented Immigrants" will be held Monday, April 10 at 5 p.m. in San Francisco, with a march from the 16th Street and Mission to 24th Street and Mission; and

Whereas, the March 25 Coalition, which organized the mass protest of more than one million people in Los Angeles is calling for May 1st demonstrations across the country in support of amnesty, full legalization and equal rights for undocumented immigrants;

Whereas, racist laws have greatly impacted the communities of San Francisco the families and children we serve

Be it therefore resolved, that UESF actively oppose the HR 4437 and work in alliance with others in the SF community to oppose this and any other measure which criminalizes the diverse students, families and immigrant communities in San Francisco people;

Be it further resolved, that UESF supports the call to mobilize in support of amnesty, full legalization and equal rights for undocumented immigrants;

Be it further resolved that UESF join the SF Labor Council affiliates in demonstrating with others on April 10 @ 16th and Mission in solidarity with immigrants regardless of legal or document status; and

Be it finally resolved, that UESF support efforts to educate the SF community about the history of racism and scapegoating and its divisive impacts on communities of common interests, including efforts in SFUSD to engage in pedagogy around the history of race and class struggle in the US.

Members were encouraged to attend join the labor contingent on April 10.

At Mission High School, staff and students will be wearing white, as did the students in Los Angeles, to show solidarity with the immigrant community.

Report and Discussion

1. President..... Dennis Kelly

- a. Rob Callahan reported on the strike vote authorization meeting. It was overwhelmingly affirmative. Out of 5700 eligible voters 2520 voted. At 7:00 tonight, the school board will be voting on the hiring of scabs at \$300/day and the waiving of many teaching requirements. The requirements to scab are a bachelor’s degree, fingerprints and a tb test. There have been a number of principals who have told teachers that they have to turn in three days’ worth of lesson plans. Unless this is something members normally do, they should refuse to do this extra work. If members are given these instructions in writing, they should report it/show it to UESF. Principals are also interrogating members about whether they will honor a picket line. There will be a 3-hour training for picket captains on April 11, 1-4 pm on how to organize picket lines. A number of people signed up for leafleting and sign-making on Saturday and Sunday. Bob Jenson met with Tom Ryan and Tim Paulson of SFLC for a couple of hours and they showed full support.
- b. Lita Blanc asked to speak about the paper she handed out, and Brother Kelly ruled her out of order. Tom Edminster appealed the ruling of the chair. M/S/C to uphold the ruling of the chair.
- c. Report on Mediation: The mediator says he is seeing progress, while the UESF bargaining team does not. We need to take that message to the board. We need members at tonight’s board meeting.

2. Executive Vice-President Linda Plack

Jocelyn Won has given 1-2 weeks’ notice. Mary Anne Ahtye will be retiring. She will be asked to work part time as a consultant, as her experience and expertise are very valuable. The officers will be taking this opportunity to restructure the structure of the union staff work. There are 29 layoffs to handle, as well as strike preparation.

A meeting of the Executive Board is tentatively be on the night of Easter, April 16, because of the possibility that the bargaining team will be in mediation throughout the week.

3. COPEKen Tray

Leland Yee and other legislators are now coming to UESF to ask whom they should endorse for school board.

4. Vice-President (Paraprofessionals)Bradley Reeves

Brother Reeves reported on the last meeting of paraprofessionals, and encouraged members to attend the next meeting. He reviewed the para proposals still on the table in mediation.

5. Vice-President(Substitutes)Sandra Mack

For substitutes, it is good news/bad news: on big issues, the mediator is expressing optimism. There is some movement if we can keep the pressure on. Substitute representatives will be meeting on Thursday, April 5 the office.

6. Committee Reports (As Needed)

a. Grievance Committee..... Stan DeBella

Votes on grievances were taken in executive session.

M/S/C to accept recommendation of the committee to take case 0506-03 to arbitration: A teacher at a middle school re-applied for his job when it became a Dream School. He was told the 3-4:00 teaching time would not be required. At the beginning of the year, it was again stated that the time was voluntary. In January, the principal told him that the 3:00-400 teaching time was mandatory.

M/S/C to accept the recommendation of the committee not to take case 0506-06 to arbitration. A teacher was removed from working with students and was transferred to the Multilingual Department. She was then transferred to the Translation Department, where she wants to stay. She wants to be assured that she will not be moved. There has been no indication that there are plans to transfer her.

Dennis Kelly and Linda Plack left in order to address the school board in closed session. Elaine Merriweather became Acting Chair.

b. Communications CommitteeRobin Brasso

Write letters to the editor!

7. Divisional Committee Reports

a. Child Development..... Betty Robinson-Harris

Sister Robinson-Harris reported on CDP Director Jay Wang's unilateral decision to change the calendar at the last minute, making Cesar Chavez Day a work day.

b. Middle School..... Marilee Hearn

1. ISO Jeannie Pon's way of addressing student discipline: Noah Salzman. 2. It is conceivable that students could go through all of middle school without ever having an elective because they do not pass their reading and math classes for three years. The committee recommends that after 2 semesters, students be allowed to take art and music, whether or not they have passed the reading and math classes. 3. There is a substitute shortage at the middle school level. 4. Members are concerned about the earliness of testing dates. Testing occurs before there is an opportunity to cover all of the material.

c. Retired Division Gerry Meister

Members were encouraged to refer anyone who is retiring to the Retired Division.

New Business

During executive session, Sister Lasden brought forward the question of how assessments and the organization of picketing activities are being done. She appealed to the Acting Chair, Elaine Merriweather, who ruled the discussion out of order. M/S/C to sustain the ruling of the Acting Chair.

Announcements: Due to a reservations error, a 6:00 meeting had been scheduled for a Sanchez Elementary School parent group in the auditorium in which the Executive Board meeting was taking place. Parents were waiting to begin their meeting.

Adjournment: at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary