

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 4:15 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2006 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather

The Executive Board passed a budget for this year at its December 6, 2006 meeting.

M/S/C to accept the December 31, 2006 Financial Report as presented.

Special Order of Business (15 Minutes)

1. M/S/C to consider this resolution at this Assembly meeting, as this resolution came to the Assembly on an emergency basis and did not go to the Executive Board first. M/S/C Resolution in Support of January 27 Anti Iraq War DemoPJHR Committee
WHEREAS, tens of thousands of U.S service people have been killed or maimed in Iraq, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have lost their lives as a result of the U.S. invasion of Iraq; and

WHEREAS. All the justifications provided by the U.S. for waging war on Iraq have been exposed as lies to mask the real reasons for the war - to control oil and to increase U.S. strategic influence; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Occupation has not liberated the Iraqi people but has made their lives far worse; and

WHEREAS, the war on Iraq has already cost over \$500 billion to U.S. taxpayers and promises to drain over a \$100 billion a year from U.S. coffers, money that is desperately needed for U.S. schools and other social necessities; and

WHEREAS, the November election in the United States sent a clear message that voters reject the Iraq war and want to see it ended; and

WHEREAS, even Secretary of State Henry Kissinger insists that a military victory in Iraq is no longer possible and (Ret.) Lt. Gen. William Odom has called for "complete withdrawal" of all U.S. troops, and

WHEREAS, UESF and many other unions - mostly joined together in US Labor Against War (USLAW) - has taken a principled position in opposing the war in Iraq and in demanding an end to the occupation; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of major numbers of people to oppose the Iraq War and its further funding, and to maintain pressure on Congress to challenge, scrutinize and halt this criminal misadventure has been called for by United for Peace and Justice, to be held on January 27th in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS local mobilizations with similar anti-Iraq War themes will occur across the US on January 27th, providing opportunity and voice to growing anti-war sentiment, including in San Francisco;

THEREFORE be it resolved that UESF support and endorse the January 27, 2007 demonstration convened by the January 27th Committee to be held at Powell and Market Streets in San Francisco, which calls for "troops out now;" and

THEREFORE be it further resolved that UESF will donate \$100 to help defray costs of the demonstration, including the cost of printing flyers and posters from a union printer to publicize the demonstration.

There will be a UESF contingent at the march. The UESF banner will be there. A meeting place was established for 11:40 a.m., at the corner of 5th and Market.

2. M/S/C Resolution Regarding Funding for Iraq WarDennis Kelly
WHEREAS the United States invasion and occupation of Iraq has resulted in the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure- resulting in less electricity, less clean drinking water, and more unemployment today than before the United States invasion; and

WHEREAS the justifications for the waging of war on Iraq have been exposed to be based on deliberate falsehoods; and

WHEREAS the continued occupation is only making life worse for most of the Iraqi people as each day leads to more violence, fewer public services, and an increasing lack of security; and

WHEREAS tens of thousands of U.S. service people have been killed or maimed, and hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis have lost their lives as a result of the U.S. invasion in 2003, the ongoing occupation, and the resulting unleashed violence; and

WHEREAS U.S. policy in Iraq has stroked sectarian divisions driving Iraq toward civil war; and

WHEREAS most U.S. military leaders agree that "staying the course" in Iraq is a policy that is bound to fail;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the California Federation of Teachers communicate to the California congressional delegation its strong opposition to the continuation of the Iraqi war including a call for Congress to:

Vote FOR immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq, and

Vote AGAINST any funds for military activities of any kind in Iraq, except for the safe withdrawal of all our military forces, and

Vote FOR full veterans benefits, including adequate health care and other support for returning troops, veterans and their families, and

Vote FOR reconstruction aid so that Iraqis, under their own direction and control, can rebuild their nation devastated by occupation and war, and

Vote to redirect our tax dollars to meet human needs at home and abroad.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CFT will seek to have a similar resolution approved by the California Labor Federation and each of its local central labor bodies, as well as the American Federation of Teachers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CFT will publicize this position to its affiliated locals and ask that they, in turn, publicize this effort among their members.

Announcement: Several UESF members attended the January 28 "Finding our Voice" conference, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and approved at the January Executive Board meeting.

3. Constitution and By-Laws Amendments..... Dennis Kelly

M/S/C substitute amendment to proposed amendment to Constitution Art. 7, Section 2b: to say 2009 rather than 2007.

The proposed amendment in the meeting packet reads "commencing in 2007," so the amendment would not affect this year's election.

M/S/F Substitute amendment: that the three-year term apply only to executive officers; executive board terms would remain at two years.

M/S/C 27-2 the proposed amendment to Constitution Art. 7, sec. 2b as written in the meeting packet.

M/S/C Bylaws Article 4, Sec 1, Article 4, Section 3, and wherever term length applies throughout the Constitution and Bylaws: 3-year terms for all.

M/S/C to amend the proposed amendment to Bylaws Article 8, Section f thusly: Replace "designated by the President" with "through a competitive process."

M/S/F Substitute amendment: Insert "elected" before "COPE Director" in proposed amendment in Art. 8, Section 1f.

M/S/C to close debate on Art. 8, Section 1f.

M/S/C to pass the proposed amendment in the meeting packet of Bylaws Article 8, Section 1f as amended.

By unanimous consent of the body, it was agreed that wherever the proposed amendments in Bylaws Article 9, Sections 7 and 8 read "candidates", "and ballot measures" will be added directly after.

2nd vote M/S/F: in Bylaws Article 9, section 5, replace "UESF COPE Committee" with "the UESF Assembly."

1st vote: M/S/F amendment to the amendment on Bylaws Article 9, Section 5: "a joint Assembly and Executive Board meeting" in place of "the UESF Assembly".

M/S/F to extend debate on Article 9 by 10 minutes.

M/S/C to extend debate on Article 9 by 5 minutes.

M/S/C to add a Bylaws Section 10 (and current proposed section 10 would become sec 11): Where logistically feasible, all UESF COPE endorsements shall be ratified by the Assembly.

M/S/CU to delete "of candidates for all elective offices" in Bylaws Article 9, Section 9.

Secretary Susan Solomon nominated all UESF members in good standing to run for delegate positions to NEA/RA, the CFT convention, and CTA State Council.

Tom Edminster raised the issue of the resolution about forming the Amendment Policy Committee. The intention was for it to come to this body for maximum exposure. There was no objection from the Assembly to this committee being formed and activated.

Reports

- 1. President's Report Dennis Kelly
 - a. Bargaining Schedule: included in the meeting packet
 - b. Candidacy for State Delegation to NEA Convention: The form was available at the meeting. It is due by Feb. 2, 2007.
 - c. Copies of the "Looking Forward" DVD about last year's contract fight, produced by UESF Communications Director Matthew Hardy, was available at the meeting in the Building Representatives' packets. The intention of this distribution is for members to show it at school.
- 2. Executive Vice-President's Report Linda Festa Plack

Applications for positions for two area representatives, one part time staff assistant and one COPE assistant are being accepted. Application information was available at the meeting and is online.

Candidate statements for the NEA/RA, CTA State Council and CFT convention are due on January 24 by 5:00 p.m.

Brother Kelly and Sister Plack participated in the school board's Committee of the Whole meeting. Norman Yee was unable to participate, so President Mark Sanchez ran the meeting. UESF members Kelly, Plack, Carolyn Samoa, Ken Tray and Armon Sedrakian are on the parcel tax committee, which was discussed. One of the main purposes of a parcel tax is to raise teacher and paraprofessional salaries. On the Citizens' Advisory Committee, Kay Holmes, Nicky Gibbons and Jeremiah Jeffries are UESF's representatives. Two charter schools made their presentations. The school board will now begin their meetings at 6:00, and will have their closed meetings on another day.

Kelly and Plack are also on the Small Schools by Design Task Force. UESF's main interest is to protect members' rights and the contract. Often, what happens is that charter school staffs make requests for waivers from the contract. The point was made that there needs to be a way to define school size in general. Lincoln, Washington and Lowell are overenrolled. Teachers in small schools are our members, and it is not the intention to break the contract.

Andy Libson thanked UESF for getting the high school finals schedule fixed.

- 3. Paraprofessionals Carolyn Samoa

Bradley Reeves had his surgery on January 16 and welcomes phone calls. He is doing well. All paras are to have professional development on Friday, January 26. Special education and security paraprofessionals have been instructed to go to particular sites. All other paras should attend professional development at their school sites.

- 4. Substitutes Sandra Mack

The January SubWay will have an article about an Unfair Labor Practice charge. It appears that the new San Francisco legislation regarding health coverage for employees without health coverage will apply to substitutes. Members were asked to put the announcement about this new law near sign-in books, and let substitutes know about it.

Brother Tray described the action of January 23. The Golden Gate Restaurant Association is opposed to the new health coverage law, so groups of individuals from many unions and ACORN visited many restaurants to speak with managers and owners.

Pam Routh, chair of Substitute Committee, has been working on the Professional Development for substitutes. A flyer describing the professional development was available.

- 5. Retired Division Gerry Meister

The HSS board voted yesterday on what it will propose to the Board of Supervisors. Health Net will not be part of the HSS, as it came in with higher rates than any other group. Most Health Net doctors overlap with Blue Shield. Pacific Care has returned to HSS.

6. Sergeant at Arms Report Roberto Michel

Forty-nine in attendance: members from 10 high, 5 middle, 2 K-8, and 11 elementary schools, and 1 CDC, 1 each from substitutes and retired division and 2 psychologists.

Good of the Order: 1. A request was made to find a place for Assembly meetings that can be used every month. 2. Concern was raised about whether district is meeting Lau vs. Nichols mandate at high schools, and whether underserved students' needs are being met. ELD classes are considered electives by the state, which would affect the Williams case.

The February Executive Board meeting will be at the Hoover Middle School library. Parking is available.

Teachers 4 Social Justice tomorrow is hosting a discussion on good teachers vs. bad teachers on Thursday evening.

Proposition H Committee: Interim Superintendent Chan asked the committee to include her recommendations; the committee agreed and then she brought them herself. The need to include paraprofessionals has been resisted by Matt Keleman and Nancy Waymack.

Reminder that the anti-war march will be on Saturday, January 27. UESF members were encouraged to meet at 4th and Market Streets to march with the UESF banner. An anti-war petition that was put together by high school students was available at the meeting.

For the first time in about 20 years, the CFT presidency is being challenged in the upcoming election. All 3 candidates have been invited to the February Assembly meeting.

Announcements: The labor history class taught by Fred Glass at CCSF is starting on January 18. Tuition for UESF members who complete the course will be reimbursed to them by UESF.

UESF's midterm party will be on Friday, February 2 from 4:30-8:30 at 4 Berry St., the ILWU Local 34 hall. Mark Murray will DJ, and there will be food, drinks and raffle prizes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary