

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 4:15 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2005, Assembly meeting as presented. Brunell Holland, CORO intern, was introduced. He will be with UESF for one month. San Francisco is one of the few cities where the CORO fellowship includes time with a union.

Financial Report.....Elaine Merriweather

Installment payments to the district have begun. M/S/C to accept the October 31, 2005, financial report as presented. M/S/C to move into COPE. M/S/C to accept the COPE report as presented. M/S/C to move out of COPE. Last week was the first week of our audit. When it is completed, Sister Merriweather will report out.

Special Order of Business

1. Brother Kelly introduced 5 members of the SEIU bargaining team, who each spoke briefly and thanked UESF for our support. The settlement was described. Their members will be paid for the day of their sickout.
2. Joe Driscoll of the Firefighters, candidate for the City Retirement Board, is up for reelection and asked for UESF's endorsement. Some of UESF's teachers are in the city retirement system.
3. Fred Glass (CFT) described his Labor Studies course, California Labor History, which he will teach at SF City College, starting January 19. UESF will pay the tuition for members who complete the course. Flyers were distributed.

Resolutions

1. M/S/C Students and Educators Stop the War Conference.....Lisa Gutierrez Guzmán
WHEREAS, the Iraqi war and occupation has taken thousands of Iraqi and U.S. soldiers lives, and there does not seem to be an end in sight;

WHEREAS, there are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and this current war is one for oil;

WHEREAS, educators are feeling the direct effects of this war on our current and former students and their families and indirectly in the lack of money available to us in education because of the tremendous amount spent on the war/occupation (nearly \$7 billion/month);

WHEREAS, 800 educators and students attended a successful and inspirational conference against the war in New York in the spring; and

WHEREAS, the NEA and CTA Peace and Justice Caucuses, our sister union (United Teachers of Los Angeles), other unions and U.S. Labor against the War have endorsed a similar conference to be held in Los Angeles on November 19, 2005 entitled, "Students and Educators to Stop the War Conference;" and

WHEREAS, U.E.S.F. has gone on record in supporting prior anti-war mobilizations, including the recent September 24th demonstration in San Francisco;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT U.E.S.F. become an official supporter of said conference and that it encourage the participation of its members via its newsletter and e-mail blasts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT U.E.S.F. subsidize at least one S.F.U.S.D. student and/or one educator who might wish to attend the conference. This subsidy (or subsidies) will cover up to \$300 of the participants' expenses (including transportation, meals and registration) which will be reimbursed at the earliest time possible after the conference.

The Peace, Justice and Human Rights Committee endorsed this resolution.

2. M/S/C Endorsement of SF Human Rights Ordinance Tom Edminster

This came to the assembly with a recommend to pass from the Executive Board.

Reports

1. President's Report Dennis Kelly

Negotiations/SEIU. There have been unprecedented meetings of all school-employees' unions (UESF; SEIU; Local 21; UTU; Building Trades; and machinists from the bus yard) in the past few months. Brother Kelly described the district's plan to have staff development days on the days of SEIU's probable strike, and the subsequent planning meeting at SEIU headquarters involving the above-mentioned unions. Through contacting active substitutes, retired teachers and administrators, student teachers and TSAs, the district was able to recruit only 127 scab substitutes, so they knew they had to close the schools. The school board meeting last week was recessed in hopes of a settlement during the night. Mayor Newsom's involvement was very important in bringing the parties together. The creation of a climate of settlement may have a positive effect on our negotiations. It will be very instrumental to have our contracts and SEIU's contract concurrent. Several members raised the issue of how to keep our momentum going. There was a lengthy discussion during which there were many points and questions raised about our contract negotiations, including organizing more work-to-rule, a no-reprisals clause, school board elections possible school closings and the importance of strong contract language—not just concentrating on compensation. Darcie Blackburn spoke about how to do work-to-rule. The information will be on our website shortly. Members were reminded not to send union information home with students, so that we cannot be accused of using the students to make our point. If the parents' organizations at schools invite UESF members to be on the agenda, it is permissible to speak about our issues.

2. Executive Vice-President's Report Linda Plack

On December 10, there will be a labor Day of Action to keep the pressure on the powers that brought us the propositions. School visits are continuing by UESF officers and Contract Organizing team members.

November 18, 19, 20: the faculty at Malcolm X will take part in an AFT training. Eight of the 12 teachers will be attending along with Sister Plack and Brother Kelly.

3. Paraprofessionals Bradley Reeves

Absent due to hip injury.

4. Substitutes..... Sandra Mack

Substitutes took a strong role in the SEIU support actions of the past few weeks. They were not enticed to cross the picket line. Thanks were given to Roni Howard for recruiting retirees to volunteer for phonebanking against the governor's propositions.

5. COPE Committee ReportKen Tray

Brother Tray spoke about the success of the campaign against the propositions. 4000 phone calls were made from the UESF office; at least 260 members phonebanked.

Raffle prize winners for phonebanking:

\$50 gift certificates for Macy's or Target: Ron Trap, Jorge Gonzalez, Mark Murray, Dorothy Geohagen, Roni Howard, Judith Turner, Kit Bell, Cathy Shewchuk, Michael Leahy. (Sister Howard turned down a second gift certificate when her name was drawn.)

\$100 gift certificate to Books, Inc.: Darcie Blackburn

\$200 Nordstrom gift certificate: Andrea Castelli

Report from the Sergeant-at-Arms: 75 members present, including 10 from high schools, 5 from middle schools, 20 from elementary schools, 2 from K-8 schools, 1 from CDP, and representatives from substitute division, paras, retired division and School Health Programs.

Good of the Order

Photographs of members Betty Robinson-Harris, Claire Merced, Stan DeBella, Lisa Lee, Mary Anne Ahtye, and Robin Brasso were used extensively on campaign literature in the anti-propositions campaign.

There was a suggestion that UESF propose that some kind of award be given to Roseanne Demoro, who with the California Nurses Association took on Schwarzenegger.

Announcements: There will be a rally at San Quentin on behalf of Stan Tookie Williams from 10:00- noon on Saturday, November 19.

Literacy for Environmental Justice presents "Teachers in Harmony: celebrating teachers in the environment", at the Speakeasy Brewing Company on November 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Guest speaker: La Constance Shahid, 2005 National Brower Youth Award recipient.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 in memory of Curtis McClain, longtime officer and activist of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.