

General Membership Meeting AFT Local 2364

October 19, 2016

Draft Minutes

XB in attendance: John Krimmel, Terrence Bennett, Maureen Gorman, Dave Prensky, Lisa Simeus, Steve Johnson

Absent: Todd McCrary, John Marshall

Meeting called to order at 3:10pm

President's Report - John discussed:

- Agenda, minutes, and treasurer's report presented for approval. Approved by members present.
- Signal article on Faculty. The Signal Editor is very interested in supporting the AFT cause. We will be looking to use this resource more in the future.
- John announced to the membership that the Membership Chair position on the XB is still open and any member that is interested can contact him. He has thus far had no response.
- The next contract negotiations are scheduled for Friday, October 21st. We are hoping that with the PA strike, the State may be more interested in progressing negotiations. John will try to summarize the outcome on Monday where possible due to restrictions. The next negotiations are scheduled during Christmas break.
- A letter to the adjunct faculty went out regarding the dues reduction. Adjuncts are responding and we are getting new members.
- The XB has completed the AFT branding document. It is being professionally printed and is a 1-page document that details what some of the Union benefits are.
- The career development site is up and ready to receive application proposals for use of career development funding.
- There is a new Academic Advising Policy that has been brought to our attention. We are in the process of reviewing it.

Membership Report – Vacant – membership report presented by John Krimmel and attached to the agenda.

Adjunct Faculty Report– Steve Johnson – No new information to report

Librarian Report – Maureen Gorman – No new information to report

Grievance Report – Dave Prensky – No new information to report.

Treasurer's Report – report presented (attached to agenda). No items of concern. Questions welcome.

Outreach/Communications Report – John Marshall – Please review our web site TCNJFT.org. Any suggestions are welcome.

Membership discussion

- Question – What is the CWA doing in terms of contract negotiations?
Answer – CWA filed a lawsuit and is stalling. AFT does not want to do that.

- Question – Regarding the new academic advising policy; the Provost is saying that the advising contract is signed with the student. We should not be signing legally binding contracts with 18 year olds. The advising load is also poorly distributed. Some Faculty have 67 students while others have 5. There is no way 1 person can support this. What prevents a Department from assigning 1 Faculty to 100 students? Is this part of ‘Terms and Conditions’ of employment?
Answer – The AFT Council says ‘don’t sign anything’. We are currently not supporting the new advising policy as it is written. John will speak with Deb Davis at Council to see what position we are in and if it falls under ‘Terms and Conditions’ of employment. There is nothing preventing Departments from assigning large numbers of students to Faculty and that is an issue we intend to address.

- Question – Students are not showing up for advising appointments as it is. We shouldn’t sign a contract holding us responsible for a student’s actions. What about the assessment piece? It is not clear about how this impacts Faculty; what/who is being assessed.
Answer – That is also part of the discussion with Council.

- Member Comments –
 - The pressure is increasing to meet goals set by governance without our input.
 - If people hear anything at open for a, etc. that would concern union matters they should inform the Union.
 - The Faculty Senate should also be addressing the new Academic Advising Policy.
 - When open fora announced we need to pay more attention and attend to provide testimony to the governance committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:05pm