

November 28, 2006
UDMPU Board Meeting
C&F 118
12:46-2:30 PM

Present: Maureen Anthony, Stokes Baker, Mike Canjar, Cindy Gillham, Heather Hill-Vasquez, Clint Hirst, Joette Lambert, Doug MacDonald, Stephen Manning, Kris McLonis, Jill Spreitzer, Tricia Thomas, Prasad Venugopal

Excused: Mary Higby

Absent: JoAnne Isbey, Larry Zeff

Minutes and announcements

The meeting began at 12:46 with the approval of the minutes from the November 14 meeting. Attention then turned to the situation of online evaluations of faculty. Several problems have been identified. One problem is the inconsistency of the timetable that exists from college to college for administering the evaluations. Another problem is that in some cases the window for completing these evaluations extends beyond when final grades are posted, giving students the chance to give an unfavorable evaluation of a faculty member in retaliation for an undesirable grade.

A motion was made to have Manning submit a letter to Barbara Schirmer on behalf of the UDMPU Board requesting that a committee, with faculty members making up the majority of its membership, be created to study the problems related to using online evaluations over the long term. This letter would also insist that, as a short-term solution, online evaluations for the current term be closed by midnight December 10. This two-part motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Some progress has been made in writing a letter to Father Stockhausen demanding that the TIAA contribution made by the UDMPU membership be returned. Copies of the draft will be distributed to the UDMPU Board members for review and input.

Grievance report

Manning gave an update on the situation of parking enforcement. According to a report from Public Safety, 76 out of 87 citation appeals on tickets issued for parking by non-faculty/staff in the faculty/staff parking

areas were denied. The remaining 9 were approved for dismissal. The large number of appeals that were denied reflects a reassuring effort on the part of Public Safety to respect and enforce the parking rights of faculty and staff.

Next, Manning presented the situation within one of the colleges of a faculty member currently holding the rank of instructor going up for promotion to the rank of assistant professor. The steps of review by the department tenure and promotion committee, the department chair, and the college tenure and promotion committee have been completely bypassed enroute to review by the faculty member's dean. It was agreed by the board members in attendance that promotion from instructor to assistant professor, even if such movement is not dealing with tenure-track positions, is clearly stipulated in the contract as requiring review at all these levels. It was agreed that this issue could not wait until the next scheduled Executive Liaison meeting. A motion was made to authorize Manning to email Schirmer on behalf of the UDMPU Board requesting an emergency meeting between Schirmer, Steve Nelson, and as many of the UDMPU officers and other Executive Liaison members as could attend. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the grievance report. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report

There is currently a total of \$102,047.08 in UDMPU funds. (\$98,340.21 is in the savings account and \$3,706.87 is in the checking account.)

Hirst reported that his efforts to locate the auditor within the Labor Department have so far been unsuccessful. The auditor is not available to take calls, and none of the other staff seems able to reach the auditor. Baker recommended that Hirst make every effort to create and maintain a paper trail and phone log of all communications and attempts to communicate with the auditor; this will provide protection for the UDMPU in light of its attempts to comply with the demands of the NLRB regarding financial record-keeping.

McLonis requested funding to pay for registration to attend the MEA Bargaining, Political Action & Public Relations Conference which is taking place February 1 through 3, 2007. The early-bird registration fee (effective through December 14) is \$260.00 per person. A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration, plus any related expenses (e.g., parking, mileage, dining) for which receipts could be provided) for two

members (McLonis plus one other interested UDMPU member). The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Other business

Anthony and Lambert introduced the board members in attendance to Thomas, who will take on Lambert's role as a representative of the CHP during Term II. Lambert's work schedule during Term II will prevent her from attending UDMPU Board meetings.

Venugopal spoke to growing evidence that there needs to be a discussion between the UDMPU and the McNichols Faculty Assembly (MFA) regarding the shared governance trial. There have been numerous actions on the part of administrators which have not adhered to the matrix, and administrators have tried to justify these actions by claiming that they are not within the jurisdiction of the shared governance structure.

One example of this is the movement of programs by the Academic Vice President without consulting the MFA and without first subjecting the programs in question to an earlier review than they have scheduled. Another example is the dismissal of recommendations by task forces, after these groups have worked over long periods of time to research the matters at hand and come up with viable solutions. The work of IT in creating a proposal for laptop distribution among the student body, which was rejected by the ALT along with IT's role in addressing this concern, is a case in point.

Venugopal had to leave before discussion on this matter was completed, but during the continuing discussion concerns were raised that the governance structure as it now exists and is administered needs to be fine-tuned before a final vote on whether to approve it. The question was raised, but could not be definitively answered, as to whether there could be an extension on the trial period to incorporate some fine-tuning. It was decided that Venugopal should be consulted as to how he envisioned a meeting between the UDMPU and the MFA to proceed – how many members from each group, which key persons should absolutely attend, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30. The next scheduled Board meeting is December 12, 12:45-2:00 in CF 118; the next General Membership meeting is scheduled for December 7, 12:45-2:00 in LS 113.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris McLonis