

United Faculty of Central Executive Board meeting minutes

October 12, 2021, 4pm
Virtual meeting on Zoom

Present: Chong Eun Ahn*, Clay Arango*, Gary Bartlett (President & chair), Ruthi Erdman, Kevin Feeney, Sarah Feeney (Comms. Officer), Kara Gabriel (Vice Pres.), Dan Lipori, Nancy Graber Pigeon (Finan. Officer), Sathy Rajendran, Rodrigo Rentería-Valencia*, Karen Roemer, Terry Wilson, Lauren Wittek*

Absent: James Avey, Elizabeth Fountain*

* New member for 2021-22

Meeting called to order 4.02pm. All members present introduced themselves.

Membership report. Bartlett noted that exact Fall membership is not clear yet, because the first dues are not paid until the second paycheck (Oct. 25). We ended last year with 205 members, and attrition over the summer seems to have been less than usual, so we may have around 200.

WSARA affiliation. The officers propose that UFC become an affiliate of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans. The cost for affiliation for a union of our size is \$25 per year.

- The Executive Board voted unanimously in favor.

President's report.

- The UFC notice boards have not been updated since before COVID-19 (i.e., Winter 2020). We will be working on updating them this quarter.
- UFC's financial report for 8/1/20–7/31/21 is being prepared by Financial Officer Pigeon. It will be presented by the end of the quarter.
- UFC has recently filed a grievance over provision of reappointment and tenure criteria to new TT hires. University, college, and department criteria are supposed to be provided with the contract letter, but CWU has (at least for the most part) not been doing so.
- We will be talking in Labor-Management Council about how the period of service of an acting chair affects the regular chair's term length (and thus the timing of chair merit), and also whether time served as an acting chair should count towards chair merit.
 - The general sense of the Executive Board members present was that the service period of an acting chair should not count towards the term of the regular chair.
 - Dan Lipori, who was on the bargaining team, stated that their intent was that acting chair periods should not count towards the regular chair's term.
- UFC is aware that many Lecturers (and Senior Lecturers) are being given quarterly contracts even when they are full-time. While the CBA still does not mandate annual contracts, we will continue to monitor this and pressure the administration to do better.

- Erdman and Lipori noted that being put on quarterly contracts can have adverse consequences for faculty members' eligibility for health coverage.
- Another matter we are looking at is making faculty aware of the risks of syncing a state-owned computer with a personal device via a cloud service (e.g. iCloud or Dropbox). It is possible, in doing this carelessly, to violate state laws about use of state-owned resources.
 - Lipori noted that the University is practically requiring this of faculty now: for example, we use Outlook for email, and now must use our phones to regularly authenticate access to the CWU system. (Bartlett pointed out that multi-factor authentication is strictly a separate issue, and that one does not *have* to use one's own device.)

Open discussion of the current COVID situation: Bartlett opened the floor to questions and concerns about vaccination and mask mandates, health and safety concerns, etc. Various concerns and comments were expressed, including:

- What happens to students who don't comply with the vaccine or exemption requirement by Oct. 18? (As the meeting was in progress, an email from the Provost answered this question: they will not be allowed to enroll for Winter.)
- There is a dearth of guidance and information from the University about policies and procedures.
- It sounds likely that the mask mandate may be extended through the rest of Fall.
- Why isn't the university providing supplies for cleaning classroom spaces in between periods? (Bartlett: this may not be such a priority anymore given that it is now known that COVID spreads mostly through the air rather than via surfaces. Also, there is the question of who would do all of that cleaning.)
- Crowded classrooms in L&L are a concern – in some classes students are packed in pretty tight. (Bartlett suggested that one can approach one's chair about being moved to a larger room.)
- Why isn't CWU tracking COVID cases? (They consider this to be a job best left up to the county.)
- What would count as an outbreak on campus, and how would CWU respond?

Meeting adjourned: 4.58pm.