MINUTES
University Staff Central Committee
9.19.19

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Fritter, M. Lenz, B. Peters, J. Valeo

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Fisher

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Sheehan

At 2PM, Chair Fritter called the meeting to order and instructed the Secretary to record those present.

Chair Fritter paused for public comments. Mr. Fritter noted that currently, 49,000 GM auto workers were on strike due in part to objections to bonuses versus base building wage increases.

Chair Fritter directed the attention of the Committee to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Lenz moved, seconded by Ms. Valeo, to approve the Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Fritter directed the attention of the Committee to the draft Agenda for the October meeting of the University Staff Congress. The Secretary reviewed each item on the Agenda.

Discussion was heard in regard to the order of items as well as the time allotted for each. Question was raised in regard to adding an HIB discussion to a future Agenda as an item that might feature Ms. Alicia Meyer and Mr. Michael Bernard-Donals. Discussion was heard that questions outstanding from the Committee were addressed during the most recent appearance before the Committee by Associate Vice Chancellor Bernard-Donals. Concern was expressed that greater awareness needs to be brought to the staff in general in regard to the availability of training.

Discussion heard regarding the possibility of a staff survey as it relates to HIB and possibly other topics. Secretary cautioned that surveys in the past have been discouraged by the Administration as they might conflict with existing surveys underway. Secretary also noted that it should not be his Office that releases any such survey, but rather that of Mr. Bernard-Donals or similar Administration official, as the Office of the Secretary does not deal directly with matters of HIB or other campus climate beyond shared governance. General agreement was heard in this regard. Discussion was heard in favor of a survey in hopes that it would produce useful data points that could be utilized by governance in the future to pursue goals on behalf of employees. Discussion was heard that the proper place to pursue this conversation would be at the Communications Committee. Secretary noted that he would include it on the Agenda of the incoming Communications Committee and would also alert the VCFA Office in regard to this conversation.

Motion was made by Ms. Lenz, seconded by Ms. Peters, to approve the Congressional Agenda for the month of October. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.
Chair Fritter opened discussion in regard to the status of shared governance priorities as discussed with the VCFA. Secretary noted that as of this time the issues of a 50 cent floor minimum DCF award, a day after Thanksgiving parking amnesty, and the pursuit of split paychecks for benefits payments are all viewed favorably and was not aware at this time of any objection, but also cautioned that opposition on any of these could still be encountered, and would require a response and continued advocacy on the part of shared governance.

Discussion was heard that the Communications Committee should be engaged to assist with a change management message as it relates to the topic of bi-weekly paychecks and the impact on the other staffs.

Discussion was heard in regard to the ongoing staff concern as it relates to the 60 day waiting period staff must endure before the coverage of benefits begins. It was noted that this is tied to statutory language which would have to be altered, but that there may be some favorable interest in doing so on the part of State officials. Discussion was heard that this topic could be pursued via the campus legislative affairs team.

Chair Fritter recognized the Secretary for the purpose of a report. Secretary informed the Committee that a TTC Forum tailored to Trades employees has been scheduled and that his Office had assisted Congressional Representative Kevin Eaton in distributing an outreach message in this regard to all the Trade employee Congressional Districts. Secretary provided excerpts from communications his Office had received, both pro and con, in regard to the Mexican Independence Day video recorded by Congressional Representative Luis A. Martinez. Secretary noted that additional recorded messages by members of Congress were in production for China National Day, and Veterans Day, which occur in October and November, respectively.

Chair Fritter provide a report to the Committee in which he discussed his attendance at a Legislative Briefing regarding pending legislation and at the TTC Project Advisory Group. In regard to the latter, Chair Fritter noted some of the concerns expressed in regard to the potential impact of the Project on University Staff and in particular mentioned his concerns as to how positions were being evaluated in terms of how ‘responsibility’ is attached to the description of positions.

At 3:19PM, Ms. Peters moved, seconded by Ms. Valeo, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary