

Citrus College Adjunct Faculty Federation, AFT-6352
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes of September 30, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:10

OPENING REMARKS

Jeff Gordon welcomed those in attendance to the first Board meeting of the new academic year.

ATTENDEES

Present at this meeting were: Mark Wessel, Anne Battle and Jeff Gordon. Peter Nguyen arrived in time for the Field Rep. Report.

AGENDA

Mark Wessel moved to accept the agenda and was seconded by Anne Battle. There were no objections and the agenda was approved by general consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark moved and Jeff seconded approval of the minutes from May 21, 2009 E-Board Meeting. The minutes were approved by general consent.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

1) Jeff moved into a report of Negotiations. Monica, Jeff and Peter were in attendance at the last meeting two weeks earlier. Negotiations are proceeding, but not as successfully as might be hoped for. Robert Sammis has said that office space for CCAFF is looking like a good possibility. In response to the Union's Proposal for Release Time, a discussion of the issue took place. Mr. Sammis indicated that a possibility for Release Time for time spent in negotiations might also be possible. Expectations for counter proposals exist for next bargaining session. More will be discussed during the next session. No discussion of "scheduling" took place. 2) Mark raised the issue of Jeff's continuing status as an officer of CCAFF without being an employee of the college, (he was not offered an assignment this semester in the Counseling Department) and was assured that the legality of his continuing service was assured for the duration of his elected tenure through March 2011, by his ongoing dues payments.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1) Monica was not present at the meeting but sent an unofficial treasury status via e-mail in advance of the meeting. In it she stated the following:
"Our August account showed a balance of \$45,575.91. With the checks written and deposits made my estimation is that we currently have in our treasury \$38,700. This is the lowest we

have ever had and our adjunct numbers have dipped by about 100 which dips us \$2350/month. We will have a better idea of adjuncts affected as the September numbers get finalized. We need to raise monthly membership rate.”

SECRETARY AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Mark Wessel had no Secretarial report. Under his Communications Report Mark said that 1) the Fall Newsletter was sent to those members for whom CCAFF has current addresses and that a stack of newsletters was set out in the adjunct office of the CFI Building. Current addresses for all members have not yet been supplied by the District which is delaying comprehensive completion of delivery. 2) The Welcome Back Meeting successfully introduced new employees and returning adjunct members to the role CCAFF plays in supporting their interests at Citrus College. Attendees were encouraged to participate in supporting their union. The District also used the meeting to familiarize employees with District protocols and issues.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1) Anne Battle noted presence of green sheets listing volunteers from Welcome Meeting and recommended communication to them to be sure their willingness to participate did not “languish on the vine.” Mark suggested a simple communication of thanks to them for attending the meeting and for expressing an interest in serving their Union, and that he would draft and send the letter. Jeff asked whether it was appropriate to suggest that their attendance at Tuesday Board of Trustee meetings as Union advocates and it was agreed that planting this “seed” in advance of specific topics of Union interest was a good use of their time. Peter suggested inclusion of empowering these volunteers with full current budget and knowledge of trends for 2010 California budget issues. Peter said he’d get this information to Mark.
- 2) At Jeff’s introduction of the subject of timeliness to mailings, Anne suggested getting a P.O. Box in Glendora to expedite our reception of current information through the mail.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Board Policy on Mileage: Jeff’s request for mileage reimbursement: Movement by Mark to have Jeff’s mileage covered from the last day of August through the date that he is reemployed by Citrus College. Anne seconded the motion. Jeff abstained in the vote. The vote passed by 2/3 majority.
- 2) Jeff moved to approve the AFT and CFT and LA County Federation of Labor payments from May 2009 to the present. The amounts owed are: AFT/\$3324.72 , CFT/\$482.96, LA County Fed. Labor/\$328.00. Mark seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. Checks were signed and countersigned, and put in envelopes for immediate mailing.
- 3) Mark moved that Jeff’s membership dues be deferred to a deduction of the biannual officer stipend in December to offset his lack \$23.50 of a Citrus paycheck during this period of his unemployment with the District. Anne seconded the motion. A vote was taken with Jeff abstaining. The vote passed by 2/3 majority.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Dec. 2 - 4 in Silverspring MD, a Negotiations Conference he was planning on attending. Other trainings include a Leadership Conference in Northern California.
 - 2) The suggestion of establishing an amount in the annual budget for conference attendance, with individually approved funds for conferences that come to the attention of the Board on an individual basis.
 - 3) Jeff asked if e-mail approval can take place for individual events on a smaller basis between meetings. Peter said this was acceptable practice.
 - 4) STRS Presentation proposal for Thursday, November 12, as individual CCAFF event. Need to distinguish independent identity on campus for part-time presence on campus. Peter indicated lack of success in gaining willingness for participation in collaborative events from full-timers union.
- Perhaps our success in attracting cooperative efforts would improve with a positive track record on our own.

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- 1) K-12 faculty must be notified the year before about layoffs that will be affecting them. Classified employees must be given at least 45 day notice. It's only adjunct faculty who have no notice at all. The time comes and they are told "sorry, we have no classes for you".
- 2) A comprehensive budget report will be given at the next meeting.
- 3) There's a likelihood that more mid-year budget cuts will take place, but there is currently no certainty of that. It depends on a number of factors including what the state had predicted it would have as opposed to what it discovers it actually has. There are benchmarks that must be met for qualification of Federal money that aren't clear for purposes of projection.
- 4) Politically, there continues to be talk of one or more initiatives that include elimination of the state's 2/3 requirement for passing a budget in favor of simple majority passage. Also, for enactment of new taxes using the same majority vote. A change to the Parcel Tax threshold from 2/3 reduced to 60% is also being discussed, opening the door to increased education funding at the local level. One or more of these might end up on the November 2010 ballot. CFT and AFSME is pushing for these changes. CTA has not weighed in on this yet. The combined advocacy of both unions would be a strong force of advocacy for change in this area.
- 5) Merger discussions between Community College Councils of CFT and CTA are moving forward with particulars of staffing. CTA represents only 8,000 where CFT represents appx. 40,000. CTA has only four staff members serving all community college constituents whereas CFT has eight field reps. specifically serving community colleges for the state with all reps. dedicated partially to community colleges, explaining why the level of service between the two organizations is so different. Carl Friedlander is pushing for an independant organization with its own representatives. It's a controversial position because of the current disparity in representation. If the merger takes place, community college employees would be members of both CFT/AFT and CTA/NEA. Then, questions of dues structure arise. AFT can do the merger without a vote which is causing concern at the CFT level. Cultural differences abound that must be worked out. At next year's convention there is likely to be something presented for ratification at local and state levels.
- 6) Peter responded to Jeff's question raising the possibility of bringing Dennis Smith to a Board meeting for purposes of clarification of percap payments to better understand how to set the local's budget, saying that this was a possibility.

COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, October 21, at 3:30PM in CI 237

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM by President Gordon.