

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 21, 2006**

**Present:** Greg Georg, Jill Hynum, Phil Dasso, Ed Berry, Gary Mertig, Layne Litwin, Mike Genthe, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahoney, Rachel Zellmer, Kevin Steffens , Karen Gunderson. By conference call: Janice Wnukowski, Jane Steffes and Art Foeste.

**Absent:** Larry Kieck , Diane Mandell and John Verberkmoes.

**Staff/Guests/Members Present:** Aaron Crandall and Bill Franks (for part of meeting).

Meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM by Greg Georg.

Roll was taken.

Minutes from the September 9, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

Approval moved by Litwin, seconded by Berry. Jill questioned listing AFT-W vice presidents in the 'Staff/Guests/Members Present' section of the minutes. After discussion of why this was done, Jill made a friendly amendment to the minutes to list Foeste and Steffens in the Present/Absent categories. Berry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

***Officer's Reports:***

***President's Report:***

Georg is going to Bethesda, Maryland for a budget conference November 12-15; AFT is paying for it.

Georg reported that the Gang of 18 met on September 11, 2006. They discussed a number of issues that are important to all of the unions, including the state's implementation of Criminal Background Checks. Georg called Karen Timberlake to express WPEC's concern with this new policy, as did Marty Beil. Other topics covered: many arbitration cases are waiting for court dates – WPEC has around 25 which we plan to take to arbitration, and the sick leave issue for professors and academic staff at the UW, Act 89 (contracting out) and dental insurance.

There will be some staff changes at AFT-W. Bill Kalin retired. Some of the staff is being shifted around to cover the area he used to serve. Tom and Doug will pick up WSP. Mindy will no longer be at UW Hospital, but will have TAA and PSRP. After a restructuring at UW Hospital, Mindy got 35 new WPEC MOMs to sign cards, and got management to agree to Fair Share. Thank you, Mindy!

***Membership Report:***

Berry reported that we received 35 new member cards in September. We now have 3,298 people paying dues. We still have a lot of MOMs, especially in District 6 and especially at DOIT on the UW-Madison campus.

Murphy is working with WPEC members at ETF, setting up new employee meetings, and got 3 people to sign cards.

Berry is inputting data into a new software package, Membership Suite.

***Treasurer's Report:***

Dasso has been very busy with his regular work, putting in lots of overtime on evenings and weekends because of staff shortages. He has completed the report he had been working on, and should be able to devote more time to his treasurer duties. He has put in some time on the COPE audit.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Grievance Committee:***

No report.

***Communications Committee:***

Crandall plans to put a list of WPEC committees on our website, with a contact person for each committee. The Communication Committee meetings have been going well. He would like to develop policies and procedures for the Communications committee. There were a few glitches with the Insider being sent electronically. Crandall is working on those. He plans to have links to the WPEC website in the next electronic Insider, so that people can click on the articles they'd like to read, and the entire article won't be in the email. We get money from AFT each month for our website; Aaron needs to send the checks to the treasurer. The next Communications Committee meeting is Monday, October 23 at Ground Zero Coffee Shop on Winnebago. They meet there every fourth Monday. Crandall would like to coordinate with the Bargaining Team this year, so he knows when the Bargaining Bulletin will be sent.

***Contracting Out Committee:***

Hynum reported that DOA was supposed to submit a report on Contracting Out on October 25, but they have not yet submitted the report. The Contracting Out Committee has drafted a report and Hynum distributed it at the capitol on Friday. Hynum will give a copy to Crandall to post on the website. Hynum sent an email to DOA, asking where their report is this year. Suzanne Petros from UW-Madison is going to join the Contracting Out committee.

***Policy and Procedures Committee:***

Litwin reported that the committee is currently updating the travel section to include a policy for reimbursement of housing costs for convention hotels if discount rooms are no longer available or if no rooms are available at any price.

***Audit Committee:***

Mertig says we need to get moving on this. Dasso should be able to work on this now. Peg needs some lead time to get this done.

***Budget Committee:***

Berry said he had nothing new to report.

***Classification and Compensation Committee:***

Georg said their last meeting was October 12. OSER, and especially DMS, has had lots of turnover. They discussed paralegal issues and Financial Examiners at DFI. There will be a PPA survey done by April, 2007. OSER will be posting the status of surveys on their website soon. Wil Mickelson will be the lead OSER/FMS representative in WPEC's contract negotiations.

***Convention Committee:***

Georg says that Foeste has begun work on the SEC Professional Day. The Pyle Center is reserved for May 4 for the SEC Professional Day, and for May 5, for our WPEC convention.

***COPE Committee:***

The COPE Committee voted to endorse Jim Doyle for governor, but there were questionable decisions made on who could vote on the recommendation. WPEC filed a complaint and the AFT-W Executive Council held a special meeting to discuss the issue. A committee will be formed to look at the COPE bylaws, and make recommendations for changes. Georg will contact Gussert and see how to get WPEC member on the board.

***AFT-W Report:***

Steffen reports that much of the regular AFT-W Executive Council meeting was spent in discussions of the AFT-W budget for the next fiscal year. The board proposed a dues increase for the next fiscal year.

As noted in the COPE Committee report, the AFT-W Executive Committee held a special meeting on Saturday, October 14, to discuss WPEC's complaint about the procedures that the COPE committee followed in the Doyle endorsement.

***SEC Report:***

Steffens reported that the SEC committee had not met since the last WPEC Executive Council meeting. SEC did put forth 3 resolutions for the AFT-W convention. SEC succeeded in having OSER approve the May 4 SEC Professional Development Day as professional development time.

***AFT-W Convention:***

Motion was made by Berry and seconded by Litwin to allow Hynum to spend up to \$150 to purchase food and drink for the WPEC members attending the AFT-W convention on Friday, October 27. Motion passed.

***Promoting State Employment:***

Murphy had a document from Verberkmoes (see attachment), summarizing the results of the four social gatherings that had been held this past year. Between 30 and 40 people attended each event, from many different state agencies. Some new employees have shown up, and a number of people said this is the only face-to-face contact they have with their union. It has been an opportunity for union activists to encourage other union members to become activists.

The 2005 WPEC convention authorized the WPEC Executive Council to approve Verberkmoes' request to set up four of these gatherings and allotted \$100 for each gathering (see attachment). Since these gatherings have had a positive impact, Verberkmoes would like to set up several more of these gatherings.

There was a discussion of other possible events to promote state employment: reserve a block of Mallard seats or Brewer seats, where members pay for their own tickets, but all sit in the same area, a WPEC table at Labor Fest, a social gathering on the evening before the SEC Professional Day. It was also suggested that a social gathering be set up for the evening before the SEC Professional Day, so that out-of-town members have a chance to attend.

Jane moved that the WPEC Executive Council authorize two more of these gatherings, to be scheduled between December, 2006 and April, 2007, and that Verberkmoes be authorized to spend up to \$100 for each of these. Mahoney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

***Bargaining Report:***

Georg reported that 30 people contacted him with an interest in being involved in the next round of bargaining. He will be looking at those soon.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Professional Development Day for Purchasing:***

Hynum reported on an Ethics workshop that WPEC provided for Purchasing Agents. The workshop was very well received. There was good information about the Whistleblower law and the process that a person needs to follow if they are going to 'blow the whistle' on management.

***Lakeland Times:***

Georg provided all council members with a copy of a letter from Maureen McGlynn Flanagan, Assistant State Attorney for Wisconsin, related to case No. 05-CB-3569. Essentially, the case relates to contract language that several unions have regarding release of personal information of state employees to outside entities. Two newspapers, The Lakeland Times and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel sued to force two state agencies, DOA and DNR, to release employee information, and the agencies refused based on the union contracts. On Friday, October 13, 2006, Judge Foust issued an oral decision that concluded that provisions of collective bargaining agreements do not supersede Wis. Sta. 13.35(1)(a), the public records statute. Until entry of formal judgment and resolution of any question of stay of enforcement pending possible appeal, state agencies should not release employee information. However, it does appear that eventually state agencies will be allowed to release employee information when they receive a public records request.

***Executive Council Report:***

Litwin and Georg think it would be a good idea to post a summary of Executive Council meetings on the WPEC website, or email the summary to members. They wouldn't send the entire minutes, just highlights. Litwin sent out a summary to his members, and will forward a copy to all members of the EC.

***WPEC Annual Report:***

Nothing to report at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Contract Printing:***

Georg stated that we have received several bids for printing our current contract. WPEC would prefer to have a union company print the contracts. DOA will pick up half the cost of printing the contracts; they will also keep half of the contract booklets. Litwin had information about printing the books at UW-Milwaukee and shared that with Georg.

***AFT-W Convention:***

There was a great deal of discussion about the proposed AFT-W budget and dues increase. It was suggested that the AFT-W president's salary and any salary increases should be based on specific factors, and that a committee should be set up to determine

those factors. There was also discussion about the Solidarity Fund, its original purpose and how it has been used. It appears that the Solidarity Fund is not being used for its stated purpose.

WPEC will have a large contingent at this year's AFT-W convention. Steffes, our ranking delegate, has developed a procedure for all WPEC delegates to follow, so that she will know at all times how many members are available to vote on constitutional amendments.

WPEC delegates will hold a caucus at the AFT-W headquarters at 1:30 today, to discuss these issues and other issues that will be brought up in committees and on the floor of the AFT-W convention.

***Good and Welfare:***

No discussion.

***Adjourn:***

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Next meeting: December 9, 2006.