

**WPEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2008**

Present: Greg Georg, Jill Hynum, Ed Berry, Phil Dasso, Larry Kieck, Gary Mertig Jane Steffes, Layne Litwin, John Verberkmoes, Mike Genthe, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahoney, Rachel Zellmer, Karen Gunderson and Diane Mandell.

Absent:

AFT-W Vice-Presidents:

Staff/Guests/Members Present: Bryan Kennedy, Wayne Mertens, Cal Kramer Aaron Crandall and Doug Swanson.

Meeting was called to order at 8:42 AM by Greg Georg.

Roll was taken.

Minutes of the January 12, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Mertig to approve. Second by Mandell. Motion approved.

Presidents Report:

Georg reported that the Gang of 18 met Feb. 11, 2008 and discussed bargaining. Some WSEU locals appear to be close to an agreement. Georg reported that he met with Bryan Kennedy on Feb. 22, 2008. Also met with Kathy Kopp and it looks like there will not be a problem to gain approval for the use of professional development time for this year's Professional Development Day.

Membership Report:

Berry reported that the state no longer supplies social security numbers with their reports so he now has to manually match records. The process is long but it seems to be working. 3424 people are now paying dues/fees. There were a lot of retirements at the beginning of this year. Hynum suggested that we need to reactivate the Membership/Organizing Committee. Steffes reported that Mark Roe (UW-Green Bay) is the new District 3 representative.

Treasurers Report:

Dasso distributed the report and a discussion followed. The IRS reports were filed last week. He noted that the AFT-W treasurer claims that we have \$3,000 in old, unpaid legal bills. Georg commented that we will need to research them before we agree to owing anything.

Guest Presentation:

Bryan Kennedy introduced himself and said he wanted to speak to the Council about a number of issues. He mentioned the collective bargaining rights bill for UW faculty and staff. Rep. Nass is holding this bill up in his committee. He also mentioned the AFT national endorsement of Hillary Clinton for president. It was done in a top down manner which was very undemocratic. He is working on a proposal to AFT for a rank and file COPE committee made up of members from the state affiliates that would make recommendations on endorsements in the future. A general discussion of COPE and endorsements followed.

Regarding organizing, he stated that the process should be driven by the professionals and not micromanaged by the organizing committee. He mentioned that the AFT-W website is being redesigned. It will feature much more content and be user friendly. Updates will be able to be done in-house.

Communications Committee Report:

Crandall noted that next newsletter will probably go out in March. The newsletter needs input from the Executive Council. It could be in the form of issue-oriented articles or discussions of recent Council activities. WPEC currently puts out about 6 paper issues per year. Discussion of current grievances would be good information for the newsletter. The consensus was to do pieces for the newsletter on a rotating basis among the Council members.

The website is getting a bit cluttered. Crandall will explore getting on board with AFT-W's new website. Would funds be available for a communications retreat? Crandall would like to do another one to brainstorm communication issues. Probably would cost in the neighborhood of \$200 and could come out of the Committee Meeting budget line item. A budget will be prepared and presented to Georg.

Audit Committee:

Mertig noted that he had been reviewing CD rates at financial institutions around Madison. Overall, the rates are down. When we begin to roll over our CD's, this will negatively impact our interest income. It seems that shorter term CD's are paying higher interest rates. Georg noted that a PDF file of the WPEC audit had been sent to Crandall to post on our website. The audit was also sent to AFT.

Budget Committee:

Berry distributed draft budgets to review. The room rates for the AFT national convention are higher than we budgeted, so this figure will need to be adjusted. A discussion of the 2009 and 2010 budgets followed. Litwin and Verberkmoes suggested increasing the budget for the AFT convention to cover our sending up to 30 delegates. Georg advised that we could just take the extra amount budgeted out of our reserves.

Motion to accept the budgets, as amended, by Hynum. Second by Mertig.
Motion approved.

Contracting Out:

Hynum noted that there had been meetings held with agency people regarding issues to talk about with legislators. Art Foeste and Scott Spector met with Sen. Cowles. Hynum noted that another issue came up with the IBIS contract using pay range maximums. A discussion of problems with contracts followed. The committee has lost members and needs to be rebuilt. DOA still insists that contracting off of an established list is not open to appeals. We would like a legal opinion on that.

Bargaining:

Swanson noted that it is extremely difficult to bargain when the revenue estimates for the state keep dropping. We came to the table prepared; the state still isn't. A general discussion of bargaining activities followed.

Convention Committee:

Mandell noted that work on the convention is progressing. The committee is considering doing an orientation for delegates on process and procedures at the start of the convention. This would entail moving the starting time up by one half hour.

COPE:

Murphy noted that COPE met January 19, 2008 in Milwaukee. They interviewed candidates, most of which were for Milwaukee area offices. The committee approved their budget. A general discussion of COPE issues followed.

AFT-W Report:

Hynum read over the minutes of a board meeting and brought up a number of concerns regarding their interpretation of the AFT-W constitution.

SEC Report:

Georg noted that a meeting should be held soon. They are considering doing an image building campaign for public employees.

Promoting State Employees:

Verberkmoes reported that an event had been held this past week. Other types of events are being looked at for the future.

Legal Committee:

Georg stated that he is still looking for volunteers to serve on this committee. Their charge would be to look into payment of past bills.

Social Committee:

Mandell stated that about 50 people had attended over the three nights that the film was shown. Popcorn was provided. The feedback from those in attendance was positive. A couple of wine tastings are scheduled for March. A discussion of future events followed.

Projector/Equipment:

Mandell noted that she had used the WPEC projector for one of the showings of the film. Georg noted we needed to set parameters on who can use our equipment and for what purposes. We should also consider if a back up unit is needed and establish a formal check out procedure for any equipment.

Constitutional Amendments:

Georg distributed the amendments that were before by the Council.

Amendment #2008-1

Motion by Mandell to recommend adoption. Second by Berry. Motion approved.

Amendment #2008-2

Motion by Kieck to recommend adoption. Second by Mertig. Motion failed.

Motion by Berry to make no recommendation. Second by Zellmer. Motion approved.

Amendment #2008-3

Motion by Kieck to recommendation adoption. Second by Berry. Motion approved.

Amendment #2008-4

No action taken as the amendment was not submitted in a timely fashion.

AFT Convention:

Georg asked if we are going to limit the number of delegates we send to the convention and should we reserve a block of rooms.

Motion by Hynum to fund up to 30 delegates with the stipulation that they attend the general sessions in order to be reimbursed. Second by Mertig. Motion approved.

Motion by Mertig to reserve a block of rooms, as long as there is ample time to cancel unneeded rooms. Second by Hynum. Motion approved.

AFT-W Convention:

Berry noted that we have budgeted for 45 delegates.

State Deficit Issues:

Georg noted that we need to develop a response to the notion of cutting state employees to deal with the state's budget deficit. Hynum stated that we need to remind people of the cost of contracting out and the amount of money this wastes.

Next Meeting:

The council will next meet on April 12, 2008.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Kieck. Second by Litwin. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:43 PM.