

June 20 – Minutes

UUP Purchase Ambassadors Meeting

In Attendance:

Shaina Dymond, Lisa Hockstein, Di Yu, Mary Garcia, Greta Silva, Murielle Smith, Jessica Bullock, Kate Hageman, Shirley Williams, Rafael Gomez, Christina Cipriano, Richard Burton

Mary Garcia moved, and Lisa Hockstein seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion approved unanimously.

Lisa Hockstein moved, and Mary Garcia seconded that the June 5 meeting minutes be approved. Motion approved unanimously.

We discussed delivering UUP membership cards. Kate reported that some mistakenly think it IS a dental insurance card. So, it's important to help people to remember that it is not. Both Mary and Lisa reported that many like the new cards. Murielle reported that one of her card recipients had an important issue, which she forwarded to the chapter office.

The discussion moved to the difficulties of finding time to do this union Ambassador work – in the context of increasingly workloads. Shaina pointed out that the more Ambassadors we can recruit to be involved, the less work any one person needs to do. Shaina also reminded people that such work counts as “Community Service” and can be included in one’s Performance Program.

We then talked about the UUP Purchase chapter website and how we might use that to help publicize and promote union activities. Among other things, people thought it would be a good idea to post the approved minutes from these meetings on the website. Also, pictures taken at union activities and invitations to participate in local community events and programs, e.g., a walk on October 20 to raise money and awareness to fight breast cancer.

We then talked about re-starting *The Clarion* newsletter. Greta and Mary both graciously volunteered to help facilitate a next edition. It was agreed that it doesn't have to be long and fancy – UUP even has a suggested formatted template to help make things easy. But people thought having brief stories about things happening on and around campus as well as important issues and challenges we need to address and improve would be good topics. Jessica pointed out that the format for the newsletter should ideally be the same each time. Lisa added that statistics and specific data about our union would also be good to include, e.g., union membership. Generally, people thought it would be best for the newsletter to be available online. But, it would also be good to have at least a few hard-copy versions of each edition for things like New Employee Orientations to pass out to the newly hired people.

We discussed the ongoing class action grievance on behalf of those adjuncts whose healthcare benefits are being denied. Shaina pointed out that the more we can build our union and engage on this issue, it helps simultaneously build more confidence in rank and file members to think of our union as a vehicle for addressing injustices – both in the workplace and in the broader community. We also talked about the need to continue with our campaign while also revising our initial plans due to their apparently NOT being any Fall Convocation event planned.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Burton, UUP Organizer