**UUP Veterans Committee Meeting**

Oct 17, 2014

Attending: William Borgstede-ESF , Ed Hines-HSC Stony Brook, Michael Knee-Albany, Norm Payne-Oneonta,Tom Hogle- Morrisville, Stu L’Hommedieu-Binghamton, Cliff Davis-Cobleskill, Theresa Dember-Neal-Farmingdale, Ray Gleason-Alfred, Lou Scala-Farmingdale, Tommie L. Babbs-Buffalo, Roosevelt Wardlaw- Buffalo Center, Justin Culkowski-SUNY ESF, Bob Kasprak-Optometry

Meeting started at 10:30 a.m. in 28 High Street meeting room in the Desmond Americana Hotel. Chair was Bill Borgstede as Gina Doty was on vacation and could not attend the DA.

1. Resolution presented, much shortened from draft from Micheal Zweig. Ray Gleason presented the resolution. Discussion followed. Points: Pacifist views not good politically at this time. UUP should support veterans but not this resolution specifically against war in the Middle East. Discussion followed regarding veterans’ needs. We do not know everything going on over there so this resolution is too simplistic-being a pacifist would not work with ISIS.

J. Culkowski moved to reject the resolution. Seconded by several members. Motion was approved, i.e. the committee rejects the resolution. Beth Wilson and Ray Gleason were in attendance. Mike Zweig was the writer of the resolution.

1. Question was raised about the scope of the UUP Veterans Committee. Ray Gleason noted the committee has leeway and encompassing students who are veterans is perfectly proper if the committee wishes.

Question raised about funds for a veterans meeting on individual campuses. Funds could be available from Solidarity Committee possibly, or via a process of going through Executive Committee of UUP or via campus chapter via a resolution.

1. Bob Kasprak presented a bill for wreaths for the ceremony that precedes the Veterans Parade in New York City. This is the eternal light ceremony. The bill was forwarded to the Executive Committee by Bob.
2. Ray Gleason noted how “quiet” this committee is. He shared that the committee should see if it can be affiliated with other veterans organizations. Theresa had previously noted we need to advocate for veterans and there was general agreement about advocating for veterans.
3. Norm Payne indicated he would search the internet for veterans organizations. Wounded Warriors is one for example. Norm Payne noted a program called, ANA which covers the cost of caregivers for veterans. The caregivers can be children but not spouses of veterans. Norm will forward this information to the committee. <http://www.veteransaid.org/faq.php> or try Veteran Aid .org and the ANA site is there.
4. $500 will be requested from UUP for cords for graduation ceremonies around SUNY per Bill Borgstede. A motion was made to request this money and passed.
5. Tom Hogle noted how he and his campus has raised $6,000 for Wounded Warriors via a Lacrosse game. Tom also wrote an article for “the Voice” and it has been submitted for publication.
6. Stuart L’Hommedieu and Tom Hogle will work on a resolution supporting veterans in all aspects, including reimbursement for care. Language should be brief and clear. Language should be gender neutral or inclusive as the case will be. Ray Gleason noted that the resolution must ask UUP to do something.
7. Motion for Lou Scala to invite his veterans affair officer, Eric Farina, at Farmingdale to speak to our committee. Motion approved.
8. Motion by Lou Scala to get our committee’s status changed from Ad Hoc to permanent committee. Motion was approved. The committee will follow union procedures to change Veterans Committee to a permanent status.
9. Meeting adjourned at 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Culkowski, Member of Veterans Committee