

**UNITED TECHNICAL COLLEGE COUNCIL
(UTCC)
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES**

Place: Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)
RTA Conference Center

Date: April 5, 2008

UTCC President Dan Flaten welcomed the delegates to UTCC's Seventh Annual Representative Assembly. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Local Presidents' Introduction of Delegates

The presidents of each UTCC local were introduced by President Dan Flaten. Each local president introduced the members of his/her local's delegation.

Introduction of UTCC Board Members

President Dan Flaten (CVTCTU) introduced the UTCC Board Members, which included:

- Dick Gage, UTCC Vice-President and Alternate WEAC Board Representative, (GTEA)
- Betty Altenburg, UTCC Treasurer and WEAC Board Representative, (GESP) (unable to attend)
- Kurt Eckroth, UTCC Secretary, (WCTEA) (unable to attend)
- Lonnie Benning, (GTEA)
- Terry Bilderback, (CVTCTU)
- Tanya Burton, (GTEA)
- Al Dohm, (CVTCTU)
- Shay Downey-Forsythe, (GESP)
- Patricia Harris, (WCESSU)
- Ellen Mei, (WCTEA)
- Heidi Schlei, (WCTEA)
- John Shipley, (WCTEA)
- Al Stiegman, (BTC/PTC)
- Shari Sukow, (WCESSU)

Dan recognized the following people who left as board members the past year:

Jill Papke (WCESSU), Pat Smoody (GTEA), Fadi Zaher (GTEA), and Equainess Price (GESP).

Keynote Speakers

Dan Flaten introduced the first keynote speaker, WEAC President Mary Bell. She outlined the five top WEAC priorities to be presented at the WEAC Representative Assembly in May: school funding reform, healthcare reform, working to close achievement gaps, professional development and licensure support, and building WEAC membership.

The second keynote speaker was Bob Burke, Director of WEAC Government Relations, who gave an outline of the political action cycle and answered questions on the process of candidate endorsements.

Prior to the introduction of our third keynote speaker, Dan Flaten explained the raffle and the collection to raise money for the NEA Children's Fund, which is a public education political action fund at the national level.

He then introduced our third keynote speaker, Britt Hall, candidate for alternate NEA Director. Britt talked about his role as alternate NEA director and outlined historically how attacks on public education such as the "No Child Left Behind" Act began and how similar situations could affect higher education. Britt also asked members to share their stories of how legislative actions affect their students through WEAC's Cyber Lobby.

The final keynote speaker was WEAC WTCS Consultant Andy Lyons. Andy discussed the recent creation of the joint Academic Leadership Council (ALC), a vehicle to give faculty input into statewide academic initiatives. The goal is to expand the scope of our influence and to communicate with the policy makers how decisions being made affect the classroom and students. In order for the council to be successful, faculty will need to recognize it as their vehicle of input into the decision making process. Faculty will need to communicate with their representative on the council. Future plans include the creation of a similar communication structure for support staff input.

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING

1. Call to order by President Flaten at 11:15 a.m.

2. Adoption of the Standing Rules (Action Item)

Moved by Barb Michein, seconded by John Stewart, to adopt the standing rules. Motion carried.

3. Adoption of the Agenda (Action Item)

Moved by Pat Smoody, seconded by Britt Hall, to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

4. Motion to Amend Agenda

Moved by Teresa Grimm, seconded by Barb Michein, to switch items 9 and 10. Motion failed.

5. Approval of 2007 R.A. Minutes

Moved by Ellen Mei, seconded by Fadi Zaher, to adopt the March 31, 2007 minutes. Motion carried.

6. Reports

President's Report: Dan Flaten

Dan presented "Certificates of Appreciation" to the following local treasurers: Sotos Ktorides (WCTEA), Aimee Pernsteiner (CVTCTU) (unable to attend), Teresa Gear (BTC/PTC) (unable to attend), Ardis Burke (GTEA) (unable to attend), Charles Jacob (GESP) (unable to attend), and Jill Bloom (WCESSU) (unable to attend).

President Flaten gave an overview of our union structure, from locals to our UTCC Uniserv, to WEAC to NEA, stressing the importance of developing relationships throughout the union at all levels as well as the relationships we build within our individual colleges and communities.

President Flaten recognized Julie McIntosh Mrosz as the UTCC Staff Assistant and Leigh Barker as the UTCC Executive Director.

WEAC Board Representative Report: Ellen Mei

Ellen Mei delivered the WEAC Board Report on behalf of Betty Altenburg, UTCC WEAC Board representative, who was unable to attend. Ellen recognized Dick Gage as the alternate UTCC WEAC Board Representative.

Ellen presented an overview of WEAC structure and standing committees. Ellen also gave more information on WEAC's top five priorities. WEAC will propose at the upcoming WEAC RA 2008-09 dues of \$311/year (\$155.50/year for ESP), which reflects an increase of 1.97% over the previous year. The proposed 2009-10 dues are \$317/year (\$158.50/year for ESP), which reflects a 1.93% increase.

President Dan Flaten recognized Ellen Mei for her work serving as the WTCS representative on the WEAC Board for the past three years.

UTCC Executive Director Report: Leigh Barker

Leigh stated that the UTCC is in good shape because of the involvement of all of us in our union. Leigh reviewed the mission of the UTCC. Leigh recognized Dan Flaten for serving as WEAC WTCS Committee chairman for the past 6 years, and Dan was presented with a plaque.

Leigh thanked Julie McIntosh-Mrosz for her work as the UTCC Staff Assistant for the past year. She also thanked board members and the RA delegates for their work and dedication to the union.

Leigh outlined some of her activities of the past year, which included:

- Training and educating the future leaders of the union in the Orientation Programs.
- Grievance and negotiations workshops.
- Training for new local presidents is being planned for the summer.
- Contract maintenance at the locals.
- Negotiations – four contracts were settled over the past year.
- Unit clarification at Waukesha and starting now at Chippewa Valley.

Leigh stated that we are not going to stop change, but we want a voice in managing the changes. We do the work of the union so to have a voice in decisions impacting working conditions. Leigh's goals for the future of UTCC included (1) continuing the widening involvement of new members in the union, (2) increasing participation in the political cycle, and (3) reaching outside UTCC to the other WTCS WEAC colleges, within WEAC and in AFT-Wisconsin.

7. Resolutions (Action Item)

Motion by John Frank, seconded by Sotos Ktorides, to reaffirm all previous resolutions.

- *The UTCC actively opposes, and requests that WEAC actively oppose, a merge of the WTCS System and the UW System.*

- *Whereas the WTCS system has proposed to change current AAS degree general education courses to be taught at the baccalaureate level in order to facilitate the transfer of these credits to the UW System.*

Whereas the vast majority of WTCS AAS degree graduates do not transfer to the UW System,

Be it resolved that the UTCC urge the WTCS to continue to serve the majority of AAS degree students who do not request transfer to the UW System,

Be it further resolved, the UTCC urge the WTCS to offer appropriate level of instruction for general education courses to meet the needs of non-transferring students.

Be it further resolved that the UTCC support the offering of general education courses at an appropriate level of instruction for those students seeking to transfer those credits to other institutions.

- *Be it resolved that the UTCC oppose academic bills of rights and programs of standardized exit testing (similar to No-Child-Left-Behind) in higher education as antithetical to the foundation and purpose of higher education.*
- *Be it resolved that the UTCC support legislation to control health care costs while protecting employee bargaining rights and legitimate needs. Be it further resolved that the UTCC support health care reforms that provide information so that consumer-based decisions can be made for better utilization of benefits.*
- *Whereas the general state aid for the WTCS has been frozen since 2000 the Consumer Price Index has risen over 17.7%.*

Whereas the freezing of general state aid has shifted the funding of WTCS too much onto students and local property taxes.

Be it resolved that the UTCC support and advocate for an increase of \$32 million in WTCS general state aid in the state biennium budget.

Motion by Pat Smoody, seconded by Maybelle Easley, to approve entire block of resolutions.
Motion carried.

8. New Business:

Motion by Ellen Mei:

That UTCC support and recommend that WEAC support the following resolution at the 2008 NEA RA:

Be it resolved that the NEA study the impact of the current NEA dues structure as a barrier to organizing part-time/adjunct faculty in higher education teaching less than 25% of a full workload; the findings to be reported to the 2009 NEA-RA.

Motion seconded by Britt Hall. Motion unanimously passed.

Motion by Terry Bilderback:

The UTCC endorses and actively supports the candidacy of Britt Hall for alternate NEA Director.

Motion seconded by Randy Reusser. Motion unanimously passed.

9. Presentation of the Budget: Dick Gage

Dick reviewed the budget items, line by line. Holds were placed on the following account numbers: 5015, 5021, 5027, 5033, 5046, 5047, 5048, 5049, 5052, 5070, and 5091.

At 12:55 p.m. Teresa Grimm moved to recess from our business meeting for lunch. The motion was seconded by John Stewart. Motion carried.

President Flaten resumed the business meeting at 2:05 p.m.

10. Motions to Amend Budget:

Motion by Teresa Grimm to change budget item 5015 to \$2000. Seconded by June Perkins. Motion failed.

Motion by Donna Leone to remove \$9000 from budget item 5021. No one seconded the motion. Motion died.

Motion by Teresa Grimm to reduce budget item from \$7500 to \$6500 from cost center 2. Seconded by Lisa Baker. Motion failed.

11. Adoption of the Budget: (Action Item)

Motion by Dick Gage to adopt the budget. Seconded by Fadi Zaher. Motion passed.

12. Setting of the Dues: (Action Item)

Motion by Dick Gage to increase in dues to \$184/FT teacher and \$92/FT ESP for 2008-2009. Seconded by Maybelle Easley. Motion passed.

13. Adjournment of Business Meeting 2:45 p.m.

Motion by Al Stiegman to adjourn the business meeting. Seconded by Fadi Zaher. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Dohm, UTCC Board Member