

AFT Local 6262 - Executive Board Meeting

Location: Zoom

August 26, 2023

Attendees: Dan Portillo, John Francis, Aaron Silverman, Jessica Small, Kelly Spillman, Anthony Clayton, Frank de los Reyes, and Pete Virgadamo

Absent: None

Guests: 8 adjunct faculty

Dan Portillo, the president of AFT Local 6262, began the Open Session of our meeting at 2:02 pm and welcomed our guests. After the agenda was amended and approved, Dan opened the meeting to comments from the adjunct faculty. When none of the adjuncts offered any comments, Dan proceeded to give his report.

Dan Portillo – first spoke about the college’s Orientation for new adjuncts

- this was held by Zoom on August 8th and Dan was the only Board member in attendance
- he stated that the Orientation went well
- he secured seven new AFT members that night and an eighth the following day
- which was a remarkable achievement
- Dan said one key to his success was putting up the sign-up link right away, even before his presentation
- **Pete** congratulated Dan on his success, then Dan and **Frank** discussed sending Amazon gift cards to the new members

Dan next welcomed the new Board members

- he introduced **Anthony Clayton**, the new VP of Member Action
- and **Kelly Spillman**, the new VP of Grievances

Dan’s final item pertained to an issue raised by an adjunct in Cinema/TV

- at his job interview, this adjunct discovered that one of the members of the interview committee
- was a full-timer with whom he had filed a complaint against
- while the adjunct did reach the second level in the interview process, he asked about getting advance notice
- of the members of the hiring committee
- **Pete** suggested that this problem be brought up in the next round of negotiations
- **Aaron**, who said he had never seen this type of issue before and believes that it would be up to HR and the full-time faculty to resolve this issue

Aaron Silverman - Vice President of Negotiations:

- stated that our new contract is TA'd
- it was signed by Diane Fiero for the district and is now in force
- and the retro checks have been mailed to the adjunct faculty
- but the contract has not been posted on our website
- and COC is still working on some of the calculations for compensation
- **John** asked that Aaron provide him with a good PDF copy for the website

Aaron then spoke about the next round of negotiations:

- our current contract will expire on June 30, 2024
- COC usually starts negotiations several months prior to June
- usually in February or March
- also, COC will wait for details on the state's revised budget in May

Jessica Small - Vice President of Membership:

- spoke about the 8 new members gained from Orientation
- they will be added to our data base on membership
- also, she met with Pete and Anthony on Thursday, the night of the Social Event
- to help set up the facility in the hour before it started
- she then turned the meeting over to Anthony

Anthony Clayton - Vice President of Member Action:

- discussed the flyer he created for the Social Event
- he wants us to consider a new approach in which we see
- adjuncts as 'customers' and use a marketing campaign
- to increase our membership and strengthen our union
- we should emphasize wages, and benefits and a voice on the job
- he sees this approach as another avenue to make contact with the adjunct faculty
- **Dan** suggested that the flyer be put in the adjunct mailboxes
- **Anthony** agreed and said we should also send it as an email

Anthony then spoke about developing a podcast for our union:

- to expand our social media presence
- and that this is a hot platform

What followed was a discussion of Anthony's idea on a podcast:

Dan - what would the podcast contain?

Anthony – it would emphasize actual gains by our union

- such as pay increases
- and cleaner classrooms

Aaron – you can interview AFT members but be careful as anyone can listen

Frank – podcasts are a great idea but who can do it?

Anthony – I can

Frank – add actual accomplishments and details on AFT achievements, like on your flyer

Anthony – earlier this week I met with Jessica and Pete who also suggested I add those details

John – please get a physical copy of your flyer to me and I can blast it out

Dan – I know other unions used podcasts; let me check and I'll get back to you

Ruth Rassool – on the back of your flyer, add the name of the first African-American to win the Nobel Peace Prize as an AFT member

John Francis - Vice President of Outreach

- spoke about the most recent Newsletter which had information about negotiations and our new contract
- this is a great resource for adjuncts with its links to important information such as pool rankings
- he also asked Jessica to update him on the new members
- he added that our website continues to evolve and will work with Anthony
- on his flyer and his podcast
- also, during the semester, the website will provide key information to adjunct faculty
- and our 'open' rate is increasing with lots of questions from adjuncts

Pete Virgadamo – Secretary

- spoke about next month's Social Event which he wants to call our 'Victory Lap'
- to celebrate our new contract and attract more attendees
- it is set for Thursday, September 14th from 6 pm to 8 pm
- most of the Board members said they will be able to attend
- Frank has a class that night but will stop by later to settle the bill
- in the Closed Session we will discuss the event's budget

After Pete's report, Dan asked if there were any other issues from the adjunct faculty and Joe Boylin asked about the new computer system and ESL:

- in regard to class assignments
- he said his department does not plan to use it

Aaron said departments are inconsistent in their use of the new system

- some have tried it but many have not
- COC is not sure if it will be fully operational for Spring, 2024
- he will check with COC to verify their timeline

Marcy Colman added that there are some exceptions

- to using the new system
- such as non-credit

Aaron confirmed that the new contract allows some departments

- to not use the new system
- if there are less than 3 sections of a particular course offered during the semester

Ruth – added that there are other exceptions:

- such as dual enrollment
- and prisons
- COC plans to roll it out for Spring, 2024
- but not for the upcoming Winter Session.

After this discussion and the reports by the members of Executive Board, **President Dan Portillo** adjourned the Open Session of our meeting at 3:01 pm. The next meeting of our Executive Board will be on Saturday, the 23rd of September, with the Open Session beginning at 2 pm.