BCCFA General Membership Meeting
Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday, April 9, 2013
4:35-5:30 PM
TEC-128

Quorum Present

1. Tobyn DeMarco called meeting to order at 4:35pm.

2. Minutes from February 26, 2013 were approved.

3. Election of Officers - Tobyn DeMarco was elected President, Laurie Hodge, Vice President, Alan Kaufman, Secretary, Brant Chapman, Treasurer.

4. President Emeritus of the BCCFA – Alan Kaufman opened the conversation to consider “President Emeritus” status for Neil Ender and Peter Helff, Sr. After a motion to move the agenda, the item was postponed to September’s meeting.

5. Advising – Alan Kaufman reminded membership to maintain records of how they fulfilled their Advising requirements. Questions were raised about Advising “Pods” which were left unpopulated in the registration process, and also about the possibility of fulfilling advising hours by tutoring and/or mentoring campus clubs. BCCFA officers will seek clarification from administration on those topics.

6. Upcoming BCEA Elections – Members are encouraged to support Joe Coppola for BCEA President, in light of his past support of the BCCFA.

7. Negotiations Update
   • BCCFA negotiating team – Tobyn DeMarco, Alan Kaufman, Brant Chapman, George Cronk and NJEA representative Ron Toppam.
   • College negotiating team – Labor Attorney Marvin Goldstein, Patti Bonomolo & Jim Miller
At first meeting, the college team walked out over a stalemate regarding terms and conditions of negotiation. Compromise is being sought. All bargaining units are currently working together. Meetings will happen every week until the end of Spring term, and probably increase over summer.

If negotiations hit an impasse, the process goes to arbitration, then fact finding which produces an advisory report, and finally superconciliation. If there is no new contract on 7/1/13, the old contract remains in force, except no salary raises. Retroactive raises when contract is finally settled are an open question.

Tobyn has a list of items which might be negotiated besides salary, including maximum overload, overload rates, paid parental leave, taking leaves consecutively instead of concurrently, information sharing, binding arbitration, sick day payout for Ciarco staff, and the parameters of the sick day bank. Items will be prioritized and proposed as the negotiating team proceeds.

A question is raised about the sunset provision for health care cost sharing; Tobyn responds that the sunset will probably be repealed; if it stood, that cost sharing would be negotiable again. Tobyn also notes that the statutory amounts health care pay-in are minimums; the college could negotiate for more.

Other concerns are raised and briefly discussed – a reminder about tenure and salaries for our Ciarco colleagues, the quest for a 12 credit course load, and the question of workplace safety in light of school shootings.

Tobyn’s bottom line: We are committed to all members getting ahead economically in these negotiations.

8. The GTL Situation

The Marcus Group, the external PR firm hired by the Board of Trustees, is producing the recent memos (some true, some misleading, some false) about this issue.

Randy Forsstrom noticed the problem and tracked down its source. It was initially reported to the college in October 2012. President Walter says the addressing of the issue has taken this long because of a criminal investigation.

Members are instructed to file amended tax returns for 2009, 2010 and 2011 (forms for 2010 and 2011 are forthcoming). The college is looking at options to fix the problem for tax years 2006, 2007, and 2008 (because it is too late to file amended returns). The Chairman of the Board of Trustees has said those affected “will be made whole.”

Tobyn DeMarco is looking into the possibility of a civil lawsuit, with additional consideration of how that might impact ongoing issues of public perception and contract negotiations.

Questions are raised about retired members who might have been affect by this error (President Walter has said they will be taken care of), and how the IRS charges the taxpayer owed interest when the error is employer-caused (interest is abated if employee files both W-2s, the initial and the corrected one).

9. Adjournment at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Lyden, BCCFA Intern.