

United Faculty Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 24, 2014

Tenure Committee Changes

Faculty present approved changes to two tenure committees following the resignation of Jennifer Lewis.

UF Board Elections.

Nominations for the UF Executive Board were taken from the floor, and subsequently closed.

At Large Representative Candidates: Vick Bahl, Jane Sherwood, Jamie Fitzgerald, Erin Mommer-Fernandez

Adjunct Representative: Erin Gilbert

At Large Representative (1 year position) Ajay Narayanan

Secretary: David Nelson

President: Mark Millbauer

Board of Trustees Biltz

Dr. Bernal Baca, the WFT lobbyist presented on the AFT-Washington sponsored bill in the house that allows Community College Boards of Trustees to use local funds to fund faculty salaries. Community College Trustees have the power to make many decisions about the Community College they serve, except the power to increase faculty salaries by using local funds. The state law says faculty increments and pay increases can only be funded from a specific pool of money in the state budget. The Bill has passed the house the previous 3 years, and has come up 3 votes short in the state senate for the previous 3 years. The bill has traditionally been opposed by the Evergreen Foundation, the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, the Community College Presidents Association, and the Trustees Association. Bernal is asking all Unions to go to their Board of Trustees meeting and ask them why their organization opposes the bill? And ask if within their organization they are willing to support the bill.

Turnover savings:

The UF Board approved the proposal to ask for an even split of turnover savings for all full-time faculty. Faculty who have earned increments will receive about 47% of that increment.

Labor Management Committee:

The UF's Labor Management Committee is planning on calling a meeting to discuss issues related to tenure. The Labor Management Committee consists of three UF members (Leslie Kessler, Mark Millbauer, and Jane Sherwood) and two administrators, although Eileen said the administrators are Marshal Sampson (VPLAHR), Deb Casey (VPSA) and Derek Brandes (VPI). Our current negotiations include a tentative agreement to increase Administration representation to 3 on the Labor Management Committee, but since this is still in process, the UF is asking that only two Administrators be on the committee.

Arbitration Hearing:

The UF filed a grievance back in February on the college's refusal to negotiate the 3% salary restoration funds. An arbitration hearing was held in early October. The college argued that the UF didn't follow the timeline for filing a grievance listed in the contract, and that the money wasn't an increase in the allocation of money to pay faculty salaries. The UF's attorney argued that it was an ongoing issue and that the restoration funds are negotiable per the contract. Mark's guess was that the UF had about a 60% chance of winning, but it will be a few weeks before we hear from the arbitrator. Mark offered to send out the briefs from both sides through our list serve. (see below)

Communications!

We have a List Serve: green_river_united_faculty@googlegroups.com The UF will be sending out announcements thru this. If you are not receiving the emails, send a private email to ufcmark1@gmail.com. You can also check out our website: <http://grufc.wa.aft.org>. Note there is no www in the address.

College Leadership

We discussed concerns with the college leadership. There was talk about what outcome we want. Bernal offered to set up a meeting with one of the Governor's Chief of Staff, who may then direct the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to provide more training of our current board.