



KEAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

An Association of Professors, Professional Staff and Librarians

Local 2187, American Federation of Teachers

Kean University, Union, N.J. 07083

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KFT General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Hennings Hall 113

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

President's Report

President Castiglione discussed the two Chronicle articles with the members. Several members expressed concern that the article appeared to support the Administration. President Castiglione stated that while the Chronicle tends to be pro-administration, the article will continue to bring scrutiny to the Farahi Administration and its frequent disdain for telling the truth. As an example, President Castiglione pointed out President Farahi's claim that his administration was responsible for building a fence at Kean when it was actually built during the tenure of the previous president, President Applbaum.

President Castiglione informed the members that a group of nine (9) college university presidents (including Dr. Farahi) sent a signed letter urging members of the NJ Senate and Legislature to support the governor's "reforms" for civil service and negotiation of labor contracts. He stated that the KFT is opposing this action and may need the members' help. The Stat Council is composing a response letter to oppose these bills.

President Castiglione reminded members that the contract will end on June 30th of next year and warned that given the current climate, negotiations will be tough. He urged members to think of items they would like to see brought to the table that do not involve money. He added that notices calling for these suggestions will be sent to members shortly.

Treasurer' Report

Treasurer J. Erickson reviewed the KFT Adopted Cash Budget for 2009-2010. He stated that we are currently operating at a deficit due to a decrease in our unit size due to retirements and increased legal expenses. He stated that we have sufficient resources to cover the deficit and the situation will be closely monitored.

Political Action Report

J. Erickson stated that fewer monies have been spent on political action than in previous years. The KFT Cope Committee donated \$1000 to Linda Greenstein and purchased a \$200 ticket for President Castiglione to attend a function for Assemblywoman Annette Quijano. He noted that he had a chance to speak with her and requested help in overturning layoffs that have such a negative impact on our students and staff. He concluded that the meeting opened doors and gave us a chance to address matters of concern.

Negotiations Report

C. Kelly reported that the Administration remains adamant in its requirement for timesheets. C. Kelly stated that VP Phil Connelly claimed that the State insists that faculty must account for 35 hours of weekly work in case someone from Trenton wants evidence. C. Kelly stated that some directors have “jumped the gun” and have begun requiring timesheets. President Castiglione added that Kean is the only university in the nation that requires timesheets.

C. Kelly discussed various timesheet formats with members. The membership agreed that the KFT recommended timesheet was more suitable than the one recommended by the Administration, and the members reached consensus approving the KFT timesheet proposal.

C. Kelly urged members to be truthful when doing timesheets but not to do them after graduation.

President Castiglione stated that a point of contention exists regarding the right of Executive Directors to be a part of our bargaining unit and participate on tenure/retention and promotion committees. An unfair labor practice has been filed.

C. Kelly reported that the Administration claims it lacks funds for faculty travel. He stated that the Provost claimed he will consider providing travel money for faculty for accreditation purposes only.

C. Kelly noted that the Provost claimed that the money used to send delegates to China came from the Kean Foundation.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Roberta Karstadt for:

Eleanor McKnight, Secretary