



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, April 8, 2010

Hennings Hall 113

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

President's Report

Announcements: President Castiglione asked members to review the 2010-2011 KFT Committees hand-out. If any member is interested in serving on any committee please indicate that on the sheet and submit it to any KFT Executive Council member.

The "KFT Spring Party" is scheduled for Monday, April 26th from 3:30 till 6:00pm in Downs Hall.

As part of a broader strategy by the KFT and organized labor here in New Jersey, there will be a legislative breakfast on Saturday, April 17th at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall in Paramus, New Jersey. There will be ten legislative district representatives at the breakfast. If anyone is able to attend, please do so. We need as many AFT members to attend that can.

Report: President Castiglione attended the Kean Leadership Forum meeting this past week and reported that VP Lender expressed his concern about the difficulty in filling faculty searched positions for the Fall. VP Lender also expressed his belief that the Middle States process was improving transparency in communications here at the University. He reported at this meeting that the AACSB accreditation for the Business College was bounced back because the AACSB stated that the Business College "was not even ready to apply."

President Castiglione reported that the University budget picture breaks down into two parts: cuts in this fiscal year and cuts in the new fiscal year, starting July 1, 2010. Governor Christie claims tax receipts are down, and therefore, the State must cut this year's fiscal budgets which means a 2.4 million dollar cut for Kean. Back in February, P. Connelly sent out an email informing the campus of the dire fiscal crisis Kean was facing, yet the only cuts mentioned in his email are the ones dealing with academic programs and services. He stated that these cuts were needed to close the 2.4 million dollar gap in Kean's budget. There was no mention of furlough days for managers, reducing non-teaching administrators, rescinding President

Farahi's \$200,000 dollars bonus, applying last year's savings from the reorganization or using Kean's surplus funds, all suggestions the KFT has made for addressing the budget shortfall.

For next year, the University claims there will be a 6.6 million dollar cut in the University's state appropriation. The administration claims that when additional expense increases are accounted for, we are looking at an approximate 18 million dollar deficit for the new fiscal year. In light of Kean's fiscal crisis, every KFT member's political action is important, so if you have not gone to the State Council's website to email legislators urging them to keep the pressure on Gov. Christie, please do so.

President Castiglione also reported that he received a copy of the audit report for the University for the last fiscal year. The audit was only approved by the BOT at its last meeting a few weeks ago- the report was some nine months late. Apparently, the auditors had detected some serious problems and needed them to be addressed by the University.

It's rumored that the Administration's response to the upcoming year's fiscal crisis is to plan and create super departments, super chairs, and create a new layer of management. VP M. Lender stated that nothing has been committed to in writing in regards to this plan.

AFT-NJ Affiliation

Ellen Comerford, Chair of the Elections Committee, sent out an email informing the KFT membership that the voting for the AFT-NJ Affiliation is open and will continue until April 14th. KFT members should have received their ballots in the mail at home. The voting is conducted by telephone—the instructions are included with the mailed ballots. The KFT Executive Council endorses this affiliation; it believes the benefits outweigh the cost. Steve Young, from the State Council's office, reiterated the importance, politically, to be part of the larger organization while maintaining the full benefits of your local affiliation.

Negotiations Report

C. Kelly reported that faculty can bank courses taught in the summer and as overload during the academic year up to 24 credits and can use the banked overload for time off. The KFT and the Administration is working on the Letter of Agreement and should be settled and signed shortly.

Unfortunately, the KFT and the Administration were not able to come to a negotiated settlement agreement concerning SIR II Student Evaluations.

Grievance Report

J. Keil reported that two grievances will go into arbitration. The other grievances still pending are: faculty non-reappointment; faculty sick leave; non-election of department chair; and faculty reassignment. S. Holderman reported that the step 1 grievance hearing for the professional staff grievance concerning evaluation has been postponed.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Eleanor McKnight, Secretary

Handouts:

Email memo: **Message from Executive VP of Operations re: Budget Crisis** to Members of the Kean University Community, dated March 30, 2010.

Email memo: **Budget Reductions**, to all faculty and staff @ Kean University, dated February 17, 2010.

Information document: **Why an expanded and unified State Federation?**

Copy of the 2010-2011 KFT COMMITTEES form.