

CWA Local 4730
Members Meeting 9/17/09
Minutes (recorded by Laura Makarchuk)

Meeting called to order 5:37 pm.
Officers introduced.
Not present: Steve and Terry.
No minutes to approve from the last meeting.

Treasurer's report:

Victor did not have exact numbers for accounts but said no one has touched them, so the balances should be the same. Bank account balance is approx \$8,679; off by \$290 or so for recent expenses. Almost \$10,000 in all. Postal account is approx \$644, which covers three more newsletter mailings.

Committee Reports:

The PA committee did not meet this month.

Anti-sweatshop committee is concerned that Russell Athletics uses sweatshops in Honduras. Their products have been banned at University of Nevada (see article in the IDS a couple weeks prior to this meeting). The committee is considering asking IU to ban them, also.

Safety committee has not met recently. Peter related an incident of jackhammer work being done on roof over employee area at library bldg, creating noise above the comfort level of employees there. IU Administration and Environmental Health and Safety were contacted, and they responded and took action quickly. Noise measured barely below acceptable OSHA level but above IU's nuisance level.

Related issue – There is a new poll on the CWA Web site intended to gather data on falls and injuries due to falling on campus. It is possible that there are more injuries than the number actually reported, especially in the winter when walks are slippery. At least three people present at the meeting said they had fallen at least once on campus. Peter has the impression that IU could do a better job of ice and snow removal. He also said that regardless of whether employees think they would be covered by worker's compensation or not, they should always report a fall.

New Business:

New staff rep Kimberly Goy: Kimberly has been hired and is working out very well. Her duties include attending new employee orientations to promote the Union. She has already done so, taking the opportunity to stand and make a brief presentation to the group. Her office hours are 9 am to 2 pm. She unfortunately missed this members meeting due to car trouble.

Staffing issues: Peter's comments were recently published in the guest column in the Herald-Times regarding building up the campus on the backs of staff as well as arbitrary slashing of staff budgets when employees leave. Also, Peter and Victor spoke before the Faculty Council, asking faculty to take a stand against the 50% cut policy. Peter felt that their concerns were heard. Faculty indicated that expenditures will be studied to get a breakdown by position to see where the money is going and make sure the cuts aren't arbitrary. (As an aside, apparently budget money can be redistributed to cover essential staff positions.) He also had a feeling that some faculty members would speak to their deans and directors on the matter. The Provost appears to be in our camp on this and other staff issues.

There was some discussion as to action to take (with regard to staffing budget cuts) at President McRobbie's State of the University address in October. The group considered signs, t-shirts, leaflets, and other ways to bring more awareness to this issue. It was agreed that any action should be nondisruptive. A motion was made and

unanimously agreed upon to form a group to plan and organize an action at the event. Peter volunteered himself and Kimberly. Other volunteers: Bryce, Ed, and Laura.

Health and Wellness Committee Report: It appeared that the gist of the report was the recommendation to build up partnerships with Clarian, etc. June was concerned that there was no bibliography to back up the statistics presented. Peter's recommendation is that the CWA should not take a position on the report, but that members should read and comment on the report's Web site, and they should encourage coworkers to do so. Victor suggested that a link to the report be added to the CWA Web site.

New benefit programs: A mailing on new voluntary benefits went out to IU employees recently. Per Peter, for some programs there are deadlines for enrolling without having to answer any medical questions. He considers the programs worth looking into.

Talking to faith-based communities: Some Union members volunteered to speak at houses of worship and visited four in all. It went well, and there will be follow-up in the future.

Unite Here: The hotel and food service workers union is rejoining AFL-CIO. Also, the UAW may be partnering with the AFL-CIO on legislative issues. Peter feels that the new AFL-CIO leadership will be more aggressive than it has been in the recent past.

Old Business:

Pot luck at Bryce's: The party is from 12:30 to 4:30/5:00 pm on Saturday, September 26. Members are encouraged to stop in. Bring folding chairs. It's possible that at some point there will be an informal meeting to discuss issues, but there's no formal agenda.

Motor Pool/Enterprise: IU Motor Pool is officially back in business and is more evidence that outsourcing doesn't work. In this case, it actually cost more money to outsource to Enterprise, since expenses were incurred to get Motor Pool back up and running. There may be issues with Barnes and Noble, also. Victor was told that they are not honoring full-time employee positions, having at least some work less than 40 hours. Also, there were complaints of students not having access to textbook shelves. Peter would like to add Barnes and Noble information/complaints to the next newsletter.

Other Business:

None

Peter moved that the meeting end.

It was seconded by Victor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.