

Adopted as of 10/27/08 General Membership Meeting

**AFT Local 1839
Monday, September 22, 2008
Gothic Lounge, 3:00pm – 5:00pm**

General Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order by President Joe Moskowitz at 3:05pm.
2. Opening Remarks—Joe thanked everyone for being present and mentioned the joys of unionism. He also distributed to some members several AFT handouts, i.e. pens, mouse pads, introduced Sam Platizky as the office assistant for the local, and discussed his thoughts on Local 1839 becoming “the conscience of the University.”
3. Adoption of Agenda—Joe requested a motion to make items marked on the agenda with asterisk the first items to be discussed after the President’s Report. Motion seconded by multiple members. Motion carries without opposition. Agenda is adopted with modifications.
4. Adoption of May 12 Minutes—Motion to accept the minutes as submitted made and second. Howard Singer mentions that there are no attachments. Joe suggests accepting minutes on the basis of their accuracy at this time and with the understanding that the attachments will be added. Motion carries.
5. President’s Report—Joe Moskowitz:
 - a. explained that he requested the aid of an unofficial parliamentarian to assist at the general membership meetings and that Roz Overton had agreed to serve in that capacity
 - b. talked about his participation at the national AFT convention and in the election of new national officers
 - c. mentioned his review of a revised local agreement regarding Chairs Summer Compensation
 - d. talked about his meeting with the staff of the A. Harry Moore School about the impact of tuition increase on enrollment and employment
 - e. reviewed all Summer 2008 Form 8s for the entire university, found errors and made arrangements for faculty members who were underpaid to receive their additional compensation
 - f. talked briefly about the new AFT Office
 - g. mentioned ordering/purchasing procedures and that any checks issued by the Local need to be signed by both the Local’s current president and the Local’s current treasurer
 - h. talked about meeting with librarians and VP Baskin to prepare for local negotiations about a process to apply for range change
 - i. successfully suggested that President Hernandez’s welcome back letter be printed and distributed to all adjunct facultyThe remainder of his report was distributed in written form
6. New Business

- a. Election of members to the Charitable and Organization Contributions Committee (3 – 5 members, 2-year term) in accordance with the policy passed by the Local in Spring 2008. Howard Singer, Jack Egan, Bob Arey, Jeanette Ramos-Alexander, and Ivan Steinberg were nominated and accepted their nominations. Nominations were closed. All nominees were elected.
- b. Budget Proposal(s)—
 - i. Joe elaborates on some of the items in the executive committee’s recommended budget, i.e. funding for constituency programming, the reimbursement rate for auto travel, dues reduction, funding for office equipment, funding for annual review/audit, funding for increasing communications with constituents, and additional funding for the Silberman Scholarship to award two scholarships. Discussion ensues.
 - ii. Niloofar Mina motions to amend the Executive Committee budget (Seconded by Debra Jenks) to add an additional \$1,000 to travel budget for travel to regional seminars for adjunct faculty, and to add an additional \$3,000 for the creation of posters, pamphlets, and other media for adjunct faculty. The additional funds would be dispensed by a committee of adjunct faculty. Question asked: Do any of the professional staff and full-time faculty have money for this use? Joe replies yes, but these funds are not designated for any one specific constituency. Mort Abdulla asserted that the entire budget is “unconstitutional.” Ivan comments that he was not against increasing the budget, but he is against establishing a separate fund for a specific constituency. Lois Weiner mentions that the travel funds should be designated for “leadership development” and speaks in favor of the motion. Laura Panaman comments that money should be available for all constituencies, that there should not be an amendment solely for adjunct faculty. Bob Arey states that he is against any budget amendment which involves only one constituency. Another member asks for the rationale for posters, pamphlets, and the like, and who was the intended audience. Jack Eagan calls the question. Motion to close debate carries. Motion on the amendment to the budget recommended by the executive committee does not carry.
 - iii. Debate continued on the main motion: the recommended budget. Bob Arey addresses the first indented paragraph in the recommended budget. Mort Abdulla voices his concern that the current leadership would be “plundering” union assets if Executive Committee budget proposal passes, and wishes for there to be a budget that is revenue-expense neutral. Shimshon Kinory sought clarification on the budget proposal. Rubina Vohra presents a substitute budget proposal which is second by Jack Eagan. Rubina presents a line-by-line comparison of the Executive Committee’s budget proposal and the substitute budget proposal. Joe asks that

Sarah Harnick take the chair. Sarah accepts. Joe addresses some of Rubina's concerns, about the office assistant's salary, gifts to local members, communications, the Silberman Scholarship, computer and supplies, and the website. Shimshon inquires about the difference in dollars between the two budget proposals. Sarah returns the chair to Joe. Lois is against the substitute proposal and speaks in favor of the Executive Committee's proposal with the exception that member dues should not be reduced. Jeanette mentions that no money should be spent on scholarships at present due to the current economy. She also references the office assistant payment, saying we will get what we pay for. Sarah mentions bargaining unit members, saying that if we pass the substitute budget, we would be moving away from the union if we go to zero dues. Gloria Boseman speaks against not paying dues. Rubina elaborates on her zero dues item. Gail Gordon speaks against the substitute budget due to the psychological impact of having no dues. Ivan states that the Executive Committee's budget proposal will keep the union together. Bill Calathes questions how the economy's future state will impact the investment portfolio due to the possible inaccuracy of the current figures. Bob Arey calls the question on the substitute motion. There was no objection to calling the question. Vote on the substitute motion. The substitute motion does not carry.

- iv. Joe notes that the motion currently on the floor is about reducing membership dues for the remainder of the current year by 15%. Point of order raised about closing debate. Joe asks for a sense of the membership vote about extending the meeting by 15 minutes. The membership agrees to extend the meeting.
- v. Motion to reduce dues does not pass. Dues remain as is.
- vi. Motion to approve the budget recommended by the executive committee as amended with the dues unchanged. Motion passed: 21 for, 10 opposed.
- vii. Motion to adjourn carries at 5:20PM.

- 7. Adjournment—Motion to adjourn by Lois. Seconded by multiple members. Motion carries by voice vote.

Submitted by:

John T. Trigonis,
Recording Secretary, AFT Local 1839