

ASF Monthly Zoom Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2021 ~ 12 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Tim Alcorn, Jim Anderson, Layne Anderson, Stephanie Bard, Thomas Boylan, Victor Cole, Sami Gabriel, Josh Lease, Kristy Modrow, Jill Quandt, Tracy Rahim, Paul Stern, Mandy Weister, Lori Wynia

Meeting called to order at: 12:03 p.m. via Tracy Rahim.

1. Meeting minute approval of Feb. 11 Zoom meeting. Motioned by Mandy Weister, seconded by Josh Lease. Meeting minutes approved.
2. Exciting Announcement! Jim Anderson announced his early retirement for May 21, 2021.
3. Future statewide membership meetings: Tracy Rahim reported the Statewide Membership Meetings hosted the first week of March were successful. 75-80 members participated. There will be future statewide membership meetings planned 3-4 months in advance. Topics may include: retirement, CEC process/training, personal development, etc. Tom Boylan will work with the Campus Membership Team to determine some topics of interest. Campus Presidents were also requested to ask campuses about topics of interest. Lori Wynia suggested to capture and record the meetings and publish to YouTube and the ASF webpage. Sami Gabriel suggested to host two contract update sessions. Stephanie Bard suggested offering training on additional duty pay, honorariums, etc. Victor Cole reported and Metro is hosting lunch and learn sessions. Victor will share the list of topics with Statewide. At the April 16 Statewide Meeting, a list of session topics will be assembled. The plan is to host the first statewide membership meeting in May.
4. Taxes: Lori Wynia reported the Executive Board will review and approve the 990 EZ Short Form Return of Organization Exempt form for Income Tax. Once approved, the form will be signed and sent in.
5. Lobby Day updates, recruitment & planning—April 14: Kristy Modrow reported that Lobby Day is virtual from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Members can pick and choose what sessions they want to attend and register for those sessions. She will continue to send reminders to campus legislative chairs to share with members. Local campuses are meeting in advance to determine questions for their area legislators. Mandy Weister inquired how campuses should create these questions. Josh Lease suggested telling ASF member's stories and the value we add to students/campus including the economic impact the campus has on the local economy. Tracy Rahim suggested reviewing the MinnState legislative updates for information on higher education bills. Ask legislators if they support the bill. Sami Gabriel reported that 11 ASF members have registered to attend. Ideas were brainstormed about how to get more members to attend. Mandy Weister suggested adding Lobby Day information to email signatures and adding graphics to ASF social media. Tim Alcorn suggested sending a list of how many members from each campus are attending to entice others to attend. Sami Gabriel will send the number of people attending from each campus. Tom Boylan will include information on ASF social media and the website. Stephanie Bard mentioned incentivizing members who attend with gift cards. Tracy Rahim indicated it is an expectation that board members attend. A goal was set of a minimum of five members attending from each campus. It was decided to host a half hour ASF session at the beginning of Lobby Day to organize and to prepare members. More information to follow.

Legislators attending local ASF meetings: Gus Froemke, Teamsters, coordinated legislators to join campus membership March/April meetings. Stephanie Bard indicated that Bemidji was interested in signing up to participate. She will connect with Gus Froemke.

6. Appointments/terms on committees: Will discuss at April Board Meeting.
7. Open comments/discussion as time allows:
Vaccinations: Josh Lease received a call from an SCSU Management liaison wanting to know if ASF was planning to go on strike until all members were vaccinated. He was not aware of that thought, however, believes that

members are frustrated as CentraCare opened vaccinations for higher educators and then MDH requested that they retract the decision. Members are frustrated that higher education was deemed essential during the pandemic but was not included in a vaccination priority group. Sami Gabriel inquired which campuses have had vaccinations. SCSU – No; Mankato – No; Metro – No; Winona – Winona County offered vaccinations on campus; Bemidji – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is offering vaccinations for Bemidji residents; Southwest – No. Tracy Rahim and other statewide bargaining unit leaders had a long conversation regarding vaccinations with MinnState leaders, which yielded nothing.

Campus Elections: Victor Cole inquired how campuses handle elections. SCSU has an election committee and the members are elected; Southwest is in the process of reviewing their constitution and bylaws. There is a standing committee; Winona - Select Executive Board Members serve and solicit volunteers ; Mankato has a standing committee and requests volunteers; Bemidji State - the Past President heads the election committee and requests committee volunteers. Moorhead – Sends requests for volunteers. Volunteers cannot be on the ballot.

Grievances: Victor Cole - There were two grievances regarding receiving the 5% increase for additional duty pay. We won and the pay increase is retroactive.

Dry Campus/ASF Professional Staff Exemption: Mandy Weister inquired via chat if campuses were dry campuses and if so, if full-time professional live-on ASF members were exempt and allowed alcohol in their apartment. Responses were noted in chat and Mandy is following up.

Bureau of Mediation Services: Sami Gabriel reported there will be a hearing next Tuesday between a BMS mediator, SCSU, and State to discuss the six former ASF SCSU positions that were moved to MMA and MAPE. The hope to get answers. There is a process that must be followed when moving positions out of bargaining unit. These need to be challenged.

Teamsters International Elections: Sami Gabriel: James Hoffa is retiring and there will be an election in the fall. All of our members will be able to cast their vote. It is important to cast your ballot. At our next meeting, I will continue this discussion.