

OPSEU LOCAL 560
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Minutes

1. Call to Order

T. Montgomery called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- Moved by E. Pasquale and seconded by K. Eng that:
The agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

Item #8 was moved to follow the second item of the agenda. Under Item #11, New Business, these items were added: Aramark Strike, Professional Development Space, Post-Strike Issues, Partial-Load Issues, and Personal Safety and Security.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Feb 21, 2007

The minutes were received as delivered.

4. President's Report

4.1 Pilot Projects

T. Montgomery reported that there were pilot projects at seven colleges, involving about 60 faculty, representing less than 1% of the faculty overall. Often, the projects were in programs with only one or two people. Clearly faculty were not as interested in pilot projects as the colleges had claimed.

4.2 Return-to-Work Grievances

About 1,190 grievances were filed. The Colleges have presented many preliminary objections to our post-strike overtime grievance, arguing that they were improperly filed (a position rejected by the arbitration board) and that weekly limits to our work, aside from teaching contact hours, are “notional”, and that they do not owe us any payment if work not undertaken during the strike period overflows into the post-strike period (a position not yet ruled on).

4.3 Workload Task Force

The colleges and the union submitted names of candidates for the chair of the Workload Task Force, as specified in the letter of understanding in our latest Collective Agreement. The arbitrator, William Kaplan, found none of these acceptable and has named Wes Raymond as the chair. The union nominee on the task force, with his expertise in university workload, should be an excellent representative.

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5. Treasurer's Report

P. Matson presented the financial statement for the period January 1 to March 11, 2008.

- Moved by P. Matson and seconded by J. Daly that:
Local 560 accept the Treasurer's report.

Carried

6. 2008 Local 560 Budget

P. Matson presented the proposed Local 560 budget for 2008.

- Moved by P. Matson and seconded by E. Northam that:
Local 560 accept the 2008 budget as proposed.

Carried

7. Pension Contribution Reimbursement

P. Matson reported that reimbursement to retired members of the College's portion of the pension contribution was going smoothly. About 12 have been reimbursed to date. We expect more at the end of each term for the next couple of years.

8. Part-time & Sessional Organizing Campaign

T. Montgomery introduced Roger Couvrette, Ed Ogibowski, and Sabrina DeGirolamo who are working on the OPSEU campaign to recruit part-time college employees for a union of part-time college workers.

R. Couvrette gave a history of the organizing campaign for part-time workers, in which he has been involved for about two years. He has visited 18 of the 24 colleges and reports that the sign-up campaign has been well received but that they want to sign up as many workers as possible so as to strengthen OPSEU's application as the bargaining agent for these workers. He urged members to help Sabrina as she signs up members at Seneca.

E. Ogibowski also called for local 560 volunteers for the organizing drive over the next two weeks.

S. DeGirolamo requested that members pickup a package of organizing materials and membership cards upon Leaving the meeting.

9. Pre-Bargaining Preparations

T. Montgomery reported that the president of OPSEU, Smokey Thomas, was meeting with locals around the province since, in the coming year, the Public Service, Liquor Control Board, and Ontario Housing will all be negotiating new contracts.

CAAT-A members also will be setting demands in the autumn of 2008 and will begin negotiations in January, 2009. Therefore, T. Montgomery urged members to think about the changes they would like to see in their next Collective Agreement. He reminded members that it is they who determine the demands that are taken to the bargaining table.

10. Polytechnics

T. Montgomery reported that there has been some talk of Seneca College becoming a polytechnic. In terms of potential job loss, in such an eventuality, faculty members who have completed their probation are protected to varying degrees by their seniority, in the event of program changes/cancellations. A switch to polytechnic status would not affect our union status.

11. New Business

a) Aramark Strike

The workers on strike are employees of Aramark, a huge multi-national corporation, performing food service and janitorial work. They are paid the minimum wage. The atmosphere was hostile on both sides of the picket line during the first two weeks of the strike, with several incidents causing bodily injury. Five minor fires have broken out in the fifth-floor washrooms over the course of the strike.

b) Professional Development Space

c) Post-Strike Issues

d) Partial-Load Issues

12. Adjournment