

A.C.E. Constitution Meeting – 4/22/09 Rm 3525

Meeting began at 12:05pm

Introductions: Antoinette Chavez, Ray Sarria, Olivia Patlan, Art Hand, Bradley Booth and Blanche Monary.

Blanche and Bradley announced they were needed in a negotiations meeting shortly. Antoinette asked if there were questions for Bradley and/or Blanche before they needed to go.

A question was asked if the District was honoring our past contract with SEIU. Bradley said the District does not honor it but our negotiations team was going to work with the District on that at their meeting.

A question was asked if the District had stated they looked at A.C.E. members who weren't "dues paying" members as not supporting our new association or that our new association was not strong. Blanche responded the District had not stated that. Bradley added the Association is recognized by the P.E.R.B. and the number of dues paying members has no bearing on whether or not they bargain with us.

Going on to the Articles of the Constitution- Antoinette noted there are some grammatical errors, for example, the name. "Of" should be substituted for "for".

Article I – no discussion

Article II – no discussion

Article III

3.2 a. – Fee paying members receive representation but may not vote until they begin paying dues.

3.4 a. – No language put into constitution that relates to fee payers because they don't have voting rights. This is the reason there is no amount given in the constitution for fee payers. The constitution only applies to individuals who pay dues. Service fee payers are treated like 3rd party beneficiaries.

3.4 e. – Payroll deduction delay – needs clarity.

3.4 f. & g. – Time frame for fees to stop from payroll deduction should be next pay period. The process should no longer be lengthy because we don't have to go through a union approval process first. Fee payers must remain that until the end of the fiscal year because we don't want someone to change back and forth for voting privileges.

Article IV

- 4.1 d. – Nominations must be at meetings. Needs clarity
- 4.1 a., 4.2 & 4.3 – need consistency.
- 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 – state differently “Election Committee” – needs consistency
- 4.9 b. – Change date of nominations from April to new date

Article V

- 5.1 a. – Discussion regarding 2/3 vote of Board for recall. Many feel the Board has too much power. Recall should be put to the voting membership.

Article VI

- Consistency needed in regards to “Board and Executive Board”
- 6.1 – Clarification regarding Central Services addition to DeAnza campus – realized it was only referring to meeting rooms only. North and South terms are not acceptable. Antoinette asks for members to make suggestions. Would Lead Stewards on both campuses represent members from Central Services? Discussion around putting back into the structure a VP for Central Services as well as a Lead Steward for Central Services. Suggestion made to establish 3 meeting places that would include a meeting place at Central Services.
 - 6.2 d. – How do messages travel from membership to Board
 - 6.5 c. – Do stewards meet with each other? Language is vague and needs clarification

Article VII

- 7.1 – Adding Board members and Chief Steward for Central Services would work as there would still be an odd number of Board members. It is necessary to have an odd number of Board members in case of a tie vote.
- 7.2 a. – “Union” needs to be replaced with “Association” Question about whether or not the President needs to preside over all meetings including General Membership and Board meetings.
- 7.2 c. – A separate Recorder is needed for all sites. Too big of a job for one person. Board will appoint a recorder and the recorder will not have voting rights. Concerns expressed about the appointment whereas before the recorder was an elected position.
- 7.2 e. – Union and Senate should remain separate. It is important that someone attend the Senate meetings not serve on the Senate and the Association. Both groups should be separate but supportive of each other. Association Board meetings will now have a closed session before the open session.

Discussion was started regarding the financial institution A.C.E. will use. Concerns expressed over how the money will be invested and communication over how and where the money will go. Do members have any say about how the monies are spent? Comment made that members need to be sure they have vote for someone they trust. Will there be an annual report because it’s not stated in the constitution. Will there be an accounting of dues?

7.3 b. – Discussion about title change from “Chief” to “Lead” steward. Change was made to differentiate from term used by unions. Some felt this change was insignificant and it wasn’t needed just to show differentiation. Art Hand said he felt the title was demeaning and seemed liked a demotion.

7.4 a. – Why not change language to read “January to January” instead of 24 months.

Article VIII – no discussion

Article IX – no discussion

Article X

10.2 – It was noted that Foothill will be changing their structure for shared governance. There may be a need to change representatives for committees.

Article XI – no discussion

Article XII – no discussion

Article XIII – no discussion

Article XIV – no discussion

Article XV – no discussion

Article XVI – no discussion

Antoinette reminded everyone the last day to submit questions/suggestions is Friday, 4/24/09.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

Minutes taken by Joanne O’Neill