

United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting  
October 4, 2007

**Approved Minutes**

This regular meeting of the UTD Executive Board was called to order by First Vice President, Artie Leichner. (President Aronowitz is in Washington, DC attending an AFT Meeting).

**Present:** Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingram, Sony Ambroise, Linda Cohen, Joyce Cook, Joan Cortez, Beverley Dowell, Pablo Gomez, Peggy Green, Peter Hill, Cassandra Holmes, Valarie Johnson, Paul Moore, Thomas Nunn, Maggie Palmer, Shirley Person, David Prince, Chris Radney, Carl Robinson, Ingrid Robledo, and Wendi Werther.

**Absent:** Karen Aronowitz (excused) Magda Brooks (excused)

**Agenda**

**Adoption of Agenda:**

It was moved by David Prince and seconded by Joyce Cook to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Minutes:**

September 6, 2007: It was moved by Ingrid Robledo and seconded by Tom Nunn to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Membership Quarterly Report: Dia Falco and Michael Molnar**

Ms. Dia Falco and Mr. Michael Molnar reported on the UTD Membership Report from July 1 to September 30, 2007.

Question/Answer session followed.

**First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner**

First Vice President Leichner stated that he had visited two schools which showed a lot of problems with mildew, Braddock Senior High School and Phyllis Wheatley Elementary school. Mr. Leichner reported that he will be meeting with the administration regarding these two sites. Mr. Leichner also stated that he would be meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup> with M-DCPS officials regarding principals telling colleagues to do numerous things when they are not required to do so by the UTD/M-DCPS contract.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by Beverley Dowell and seconded by Chris Radney to direct the UTD leadership to plan and organize protests related to working conditions and report back to the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram**

***Update on the UTD Audit: Gladys Podnar***

Ms. Podnar reported that the audit is continuing and we may expect the auditors to be finished by late October. The auditors have been working non-stop, accessing computer files which are the way an audit is done; they also randomly request expenses, and it is a lot of work. Ms. Podnar reported that once the audit is concluded, a report will be given to the Board.

***Travel Accident Insurance for Board Members***

Mr. Ingram stated that as requested by the Board members, we have information regarding travel accident insurance. This would cover Board members when they travel on UTD business and covers personal injury. The additional premium to the next renewal date of 5/1/08 will be \$451.07. Mr. Ingram reported that each Board member will be covered for \$500,000 and the aggregate will be \$2,500,000.

It was moved by Pablo Gomez and seconded by Maggie Palmer to include the Board members effective 9/15/07 to the Reliance Travel and Accident Policy. Motion carried.

***Modification of List of Trustees to the UTD Pension Plan***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that Dia Falco is being appointed to replace Jennifer Lamont on the UTD Pension plan list of trustees – this is as a result of Jennifer's departure from UTD. Mr. Ingram reported that in addition to himself the members of the Trustees are: Gladys Podnar, Dia Falco, Joe Minor, and Sherri Daniels.

It was moved by Valarie Johnson and seconded by Beverley Dowell to add Dia Falco, UTD Chief of Staff, to the list of Trustees for the UTD Pension Plan. Motion carried.

***Filling of Vacancies on the UTD Executive Board***

***Vice President Paraprofessional: Willette Cruse***

It was moved by Beverley Dowell and seconded by Pablo Gomez to accept the recommendation of the appointment of Willette Cruse as Vice President of Paraprofessional. Motion carried.

***Vice President Office Personnel: Sharon Williams***

It was moved by Pablo Gomez and seconded by Ingrid Robledo to accept the recommendation of the appointment of Sharon Williams as Vice President Office Personnel. Motion carried.

***Approval of Nominees to UTD Standing Committees***

Mr. Ingram stated that in accordance with the Constitution, members and Chairpersons of committees are nominated by the President and then are approved by the Executive Board. The list of the chairpersons will be brought to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

It was moved by Valarie Johnson and seconded by Ingrid Robledo to adopt the list of nominees to the UTD Standing Committees including adding Wendi Werther to the

Contract Action Team, and also add Chris Radney to the Legislative committee. Motion carried.

#### ***Dues Structure Committee***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that UTD will be convening the UTD Dues Structure Committee and we are asking for volunteers from the Board. The following Board members volunteered to serve on the UTD Dues Structure Committee: Wendi Werther, Peggy Green, Beverley Dowell, Thomas Nunn, Chris Radney, and Peter Hill. Mr. Ingram stated that he will also be asking for volunteers at the next Council of Stewards meeting.

#### ***Steward Financial Oversight Committee***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram announced that Stewards who were interested in serving on the FOC committee have been asked to contact Mr. Burnette, Chairperson of the UTD Internal Functions Committee. The nominees will be voted on at the next Council of Stewards meeting, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business Items**

Mr. Ingram invited Board members to the reception that UTD is hosting for the Turn Conference on Thursday, October 11, 2007. As a result of inquiries made by Board members, Mr. Ingram reported that Board stipend checks would be ready on 10/19/07, 11/16/07, 12/14/07 and 1/11/08. Board members who are interested in direct-deposit for their stipends are asked to see Ms. Gladys Podnar and fill out the proper paperwork.

Mr. Chris Radney stated that he has asked that a Constitutional Revision committee be formed in order to make the UTD Constitution current.

It was moved by Chris Radney and seconded by Maggie Palmer to have the UTD leadership appoint a Constitutional Revision Committee subject to Executive Board approval no later than the December Executive Board meeting. After discussion, it was moved by Chris Radney and Joan Cortez to table this item. Motion carried.

Ms. Maggie Palmer gave a report to the Board on the Florida AFL-CIO convention which she attended last week, and she discussed the plight of the Immokalee Workers and other key political issues that were discussed at the convention. Ms. Palmer also stated that representatives from the Immokalee Workers will be attending the Council of Stewards meeting in October. Ms. Palmer also informed that Fedrick Ingram was elected as a member of the Florida AFL-CIO Executive Board.

Ms. Peggy Green addressed the Board on the problems that we are encountering with Professional Development and the district. Ms Green stated that we must be actively involved in this issue and there is a lot of misinformation in the schools and the principals are harassing the teachers. Ms. Green asked Board members to read Article XXVI, Section 21, and 48 of the UTD/M-DCPS contract.

Extensive discussion followed on this topic.

It was moved by Peggy Green and seconded by Beverley Dowell to direct the UTD leadership to move forward and create a committee to take action on issues involving professional development in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The leadership should solicit volunteers to serve on this committee. Motion carried.

It was moved by Peter Hill and seconded by Beverley Dowell to extend the meeting to 30 additional minutes. Motion carried.

Mr. Peter Hill gave a report to the Board on the FEA Delegate Assembly held last week and stated that we had asked for a weighted vote and were turned down. Mr. Chris Radney also stated that a lot of discussion takes place at the Governance Board meetings before it goes to the floor of the convention.

Ms. Linda Cohen reported that she and Shirley Person had attended the South Florida AFL-CIO annual labor banquet on behalf of UTD.

Ms. Beverley Dowell reported on IPEGS and the principals score cards. Ms. Dowell stated that there is a lot of hostility, intimidation and harassment of teachers. Principals are mixing messages, and there are a lot of contract violations. Beverley also stated that IPEGS and the reading plan are used as a tool to provide a hostile environment in the elementary schools.

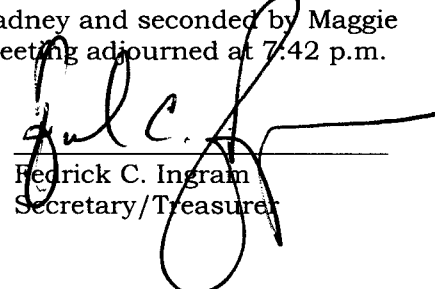
It was moved by Wendi Werther to have the Board fix the IPEG problems or get rid of IPEGS. Due to lack of a second, motion failed.

Ms. Maggie Palmer announced that a meeting has been scheduled with the Superintendent with the Fine Arts teachers. Mr. Ingram stated the meeting was scheduled at the request of President Aronowitz and he would be attending as a representative, in addition to Albert Stellmach and Maggie Palmer.

**Adjournment**

With nothing further to discuss, it was moved by Chris Radney and seconded by Maggie Palmer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

  
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Artie Leichner  
First Vice President

  
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Fredrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer