

United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting  
March 19, 2009

**Approved Minutes**

This regular meeting of the UTD Executive Board was called to order by President Karen Aronowitz at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Karen Aronowitz, Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingram, Sony Ambroise, Magda Brooks, Linda Cohen, Joyce Cook, Willette Crtuse, Beverley Dowell, Angie Gonzalez, Cassandra Holmes, Valarie Johnson, Thomas Nunn, Chris Radney, Ingrid Robledo, Wendi Werther, and Sharon Williams. Guest: Javier Berezdevin

**Absent:** Peter Hill (excused) Ingrid Robledo (excused) Joan Cortez (excused) Peggy Green (excused) Pablo Gomez (unexcused) Shirley Person (unexcused) Maggie Palmer (unexcused)

**Agenda**

**Quarterly Report: Fernando Egea, Member, Steward(s) Financial Oversight Committee**

Mr. Fernando Egea addressed the Board stating the FOC committee had met on January 23, 2009 for the purpose of reviewing the Financial Management Review as well as the Operational Budget and Cash Flow for the 2007-2008 Last Fiscal Quarter and First quarter 2008-2009.

Mr. Egea read the letter from the members of the FOC Committee entitled, "Financial Oversight Committee Report to the Council of Stewards."

The Board members thanked the FOC Committee on the report.

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

**Financial Management Review (As of January 31, 2009 and Year-to-Date)**

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram summarized the key financial points, highlights and achievements of the review and stated that we had 16,996 members as of January with a total of 13,598 FTE's and as of March 10<sup>th</sup>, we had 17,059 members—we are still increasing our membership and we are holding strong. Secretary/Treasurer Ingram also stated that administrative expenses are under Budget.

If Board members have any questions they are asked to contact the Secretary/Treasurer or Ms. Gladys Podnar.

**President's Report: Karen Aronowitz**

President Aronowitz reported that the E-activity issue has generated reprisals being taken against our members and we are holding conversations with FEA's legal department, and the ACLU – it is our opinion that this is a violation the Constitution. It was expressed by several Board members that administration is blocking receipt of emails – one of the examples given was our Black History celebration – President Aronowitz stated that this is clearly censorship and asked Board members to keep UTD informed at all times. President Aronowitz also informed that UTD has asked for a public records request from the district.

President Aronowitz stated she had been in Tallahassee meeting with legislators regarding funding. President Aronowitz also met with the assistant of Senator Wise, who is the Education Committee Chairperson, to discuss the class size issue – which is being whipped around and they want to have it come back to the voters. President Aronowitz stated that UTD, Broward Teachers Union and FEA have been very strong in voicing to legislators in Tallahassee to stay off the class size amendment.

President Aronowitz stated that the Pay Teachers First Bill has been filed, and Senator Villalobos and Representative Luis Garcia are very optimistic about the bill's passage. President Aronowitz stated that in conversations with Representative Garcia, he is trying to seek a co-sponsor and Representative Juan Zapata is trying to get the entire Dade delegation to support it.

### ***Council of Stewards Briefing***

President Aronowitz briefed the Board members on the topics she will be covering at the Council of Stewards meeting.

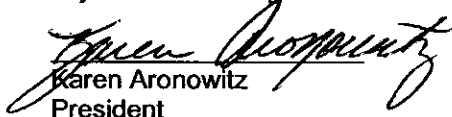
### **First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner**

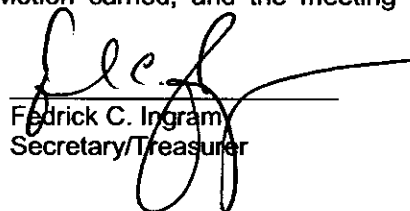
First Vice President Leichner updated the Board on several issues: EESAC monies: Artie stated that this has gone to the Inspector General for an investigation and we are probably talking about one million; Balanced Billing: Artie stated that we are seeing a lot of this it's a problem and we have already discussed the issue with the legal department of United (UTD will be putting the information on the UTD Web site). As regards the Substitute issue, Mr. Leichner has met with the district and they will be putting something out that they can be in the red and hire the substitutes needed. Mr. Leichner also explained the 20% administrative fee the district is making schools give back when they have book fairs or fund-raising activities. Mr. Leichner stated that parents have complained and most probably a memo will go out rescinding the 20% administrative fee.

Several Board members expressed concerns that some of their members have paid double in trying to get prescriptions refilled. Mr. Leichner stated that he would be checking this out and putting something on the Web site; and he will also put on our website the information regarding the urgent care facilities as recommended by one of our Board members.

### **Adjournment**

In light of the starting time for the Council of Steward meeting, it was moved by President Aronowitz and properly seconded to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

  
Karen Aronowitz  
President

  
Fredrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer