

**United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137**

**Council of Building Stewards Meeting  
September 15, 2007**

**Approved Minutes**

This regular meeting of the UTD Council of Stewards was called to order by President Karen Aronowitz at approximately 8:30 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Aronowitz. Parliamentarian: Michael Van Dyk

**Adoption of Agenda:** It was moved and seconded by Esther Garvett to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved by Seth Patterson and seconded by Beverley Dowell to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion carried.

**Agenda**

**Special Item: Help for Victims of the Fire in Overtown**

President Aronowitz reported that a couple of weeks ago, there had been a fire and two of our members had lost everything, including their homes. Ms. Dana Milson from Miami Norland Senior high School and Ms. La Stoser Hammet from Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School were the victims of the fire and UTD is asking for donations. President Aronowitz highlighted all of the items needed for these two families.

**President's Report: Karen Aronowitz**

***Nomination to the Steward Financial Oversight Committee (FOC)***

President Aronowitz stated that elections will be held for the Steward Financial Oversight Committee. Members of the FOC have the right and responsibility to review all UTD finances including all records. Stewards who are interested in serving as a member of the FOC Committee are to submit their names to Mr. Robert Barnett, Chairperson of the UTD Internal Functions Committee. President Aronowitz stated that names received will be placed on a ballot and the vote will take place at the next Council of Stewards meeting in October.

President Aronowitz took this opportunity to thank the past members of the FOC Committee for a job well done: Dr. Fernando Egea, Mr. David Moss, and Ms. Joyce Beamer who has now retired.

***UTD Summer Activities***

President Aronowitz informed the Stewards of all of the activities that we were involved in this past summer: Summer Internship Program: In June we had over 46 members participating in the intensive three-day internship program; UTD participated in the AFT QuEST conference held in Washington, D.C. and in the NEA Representative Assembly held in Philadelphia. President Aronowitz also stated that nine UTD members had traveled to New Orleans during the summer to help our fellow brothers and sisters.

President Aronowitz recognized all of the participants of the Steward Boot Camp, and introduced Ms. Katie Patterson, new Steward, who attended Boot Camp.

Ms. Patterson reported that she had enjoyed participating in Boot Camp, stating that she had learned new strategies and techniques to help members, and she particularly enjoyed the session dealing with the new UTD/M-DCPS contract. Ms. Patterson also stated that she has a professional working relationship with her principal, and by working together they have learned to keep a positive attitude, and in this way she makes sure that her members are served. Ms. Patterson thanked UTD for the retreat and stated she was very proud to be a UTD member.

President Aronowitz also recognized the Stewards who will be attending the FEA Delegate Assembly meeting in September.

### ***Legislative Update***

#### ***State Budget Shortfall***

President Aronowitz reported that we are looking at a billion dollar shortfall in the State budget, and she has already let the School Board know that any cuts to the local Budget will not be made on the backs of teachers and secretarial/clerical personnel. President Aronowitz reported that we will now have a special session on October 3-12, 2007, and UTD will have a presence in Tallahassee.

#### ***MAP***

She also reported that we are at impasse regarding MAP, the district is doing nothing and the deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup> for submitting a plan. President Aronowitz stated that we will continue to work and keep Stewards informed.

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

#### ***Financial Management Review May 2007***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the report with the Council of Stewards stating that as of May 2007 we had 18,259 members, and our budget is based on 14,759 FTE's.

#### ***Summer Finances***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that UTD will be receiving one million dollars as beneficiary of Mr. Tornillo's insurance. AFT has restructured the promissory note, and AFT will continue to have financial oversight until all financial obligations with AFT are paid. Secretary/Treasurer Ingram thanked the members of the Steward Financial Oversight Committee for their tremendous service to our union.

### **Financial Oversight Committee: Dr. Fernando Egea and Mr. David Moss**

Dr. Fernando Egea addressed the Council of Stewards reporting the FOC had met on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, and is happy to report that we have an increase in membership, and there was complete transparency and accountability. Mr. David Moss reported that we are controlling our expenses, and the leadership should be thanked for their work.

Dr. Fernando Egea highlighted portions of the letter signed by the members of the FOC addressed to the Stewards.

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

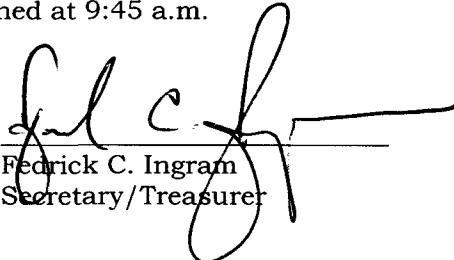
First Vice President Leichner reported that we have filed a Level III grievance regarding planning time, and we need to have information from schools that were not afforded planning time. Mr. Leichner asked Stewards to check if they have teachers in portables that do not have access to the grade books, and to let the principals and the organizers know.

Questions/Answer Session with Stewards followed.

**Adjournment**

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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Karen Aronowitz  
President

  
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Fredrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer