

United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

Council of Building Stewards Meeting  
May 21, 2009

**Approved Minutes**

This regular meeting of the Council of Building Stewards was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Karen Aronowitz and a moment of silence was observed.

**Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adopt the Agenda as presented. After discussion, motion carried.

**Minutes**

*March 19, 2009:* It was moved by Esther Garvett and properly seconded to adopt the minutes as presented. After discussion, motion carried. *April 16, 2009:* It was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adopt the minutes as presented. After discussion, motion carried. *May 7, 2009:* It was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adopt the minutes as presented. After discussion, motion carried.

**Agenda**

**Special Item: Steward Financial Oversight Committee Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008-2009**

Mr. David Moss, member of the Steward Financial Oversight Committee addressed the Council stating that the FOC had met and reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Financial Quarters of the 2008-2009 year. Mr. Moss stated that the committee had observed a 7% membership decrease due to employment changes at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Moss reminded the Council of Stewards, that the UTD Budget is based on an FTE of 14,450 members. The decrease in dues revenue for the Third Quarter followed the loss in membership. Mr. Moss also read the letter addressed to the Council of Stewards which was submitted by the members of the FOC Committee: Dr. Fernando Egea, Ms. Carol Haney, and David.

Mr. Moss stated that overall, UTD is overcoming a very difficult financial year in our nation, and a continuous control of expenses at many levels by the administration is observed in order to offset the negative variance caused by the loss of income.

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

***Financial Management Review as of February 28, 2009 and Year-to-Date***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the key financial points, highlights and achievements noted in the report in reviewing the financial statements for the month of February and Year-to-Date. Mr. Ingram reported that we had a total of 17,068 members, with a total of 13,538 FTE's.

***Financial Management Review Third Quarter (January, February, March 2009) and Year-to-Date***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the report with the Council of Stewards, stating that as of March 2009, we had a total of 17,063 members with a total FTE count of 13,512.

### ***UTD Budget for 2009-2010 Approved***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the Proposed Operational Budget and Cash Flow for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Period: 07/01/09 to 06/30/10. Mr. Ingram reported there are no increases in local dues in this Budget only pass-through for AFT/NEA per the UTD Constitution and Bylaws. Mr. Ingram stated that there are no increases in salaries for the officers and managers this fiscal year.

It was moved by Esther Garvett and properly seconded to adopt the UTD Proposed Budget for 2009-2010. After discussion, motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram thanked the UTD Financial Department for a job well done.

### **Election of Stewards Incentive Oversight Committee: Esther Garvett, June Johnson, Thomas Lander and Larry Howell, Alternate**

Mr. Barnett, Chairperson of the UTD Internal Functions Committee, explained the process to the Council of Stewards stating that three people would be elected to serve with one alternate. Mr. Barnett also stated that each person would have a chance to address the Council of Stewards and write-in candidates were welcomed. Once the ballots were counted, the results of the winners were announced at the end of the meeting: Esther Garvett, June Johnson, Thomas Lander and Larry Howell.

### **President's Report: Karen Aronowitz**

#### ***"I'll Be There" UTD Flyer***

President Aronowitz stated that although schools will be closed on June 4<sup>th</sup>, UTD will continue to be very active during the summer working on all of the issues that are facing teachers. Stewards are encouraged to fill out the UTD Flyer, "I'll Be There" if they are available to volunteer and join the Member Outreach Network.

#### ***Legislative Review/Briefing***

A power point presentation was shown to the Council of Stewards, reporting on what really happened during the 2009 legislative session. Included in the power point presentation was the use of ARRA funds and the principles that it is guided by; and 2009-2010 K-12 Appropriations.

Mr. Joe Minor reported that we had defeated a proposal that would have significantly changed Florida's due process/tenure structure for all future teachers; Defeated a proposal that would have significantly altered the high school graduation standards without adequate funding for the program or a reasonable implementation timeline; UTD support for the Florida's Class Size Amendment protected it from an effort to significantly change class size limits – President Aronowitz took this opportunity to remind the Council that we will certainly be faced with this issue again in the 2010 Legislative Session.

Mr. Joe Minor also reviewed the 2009-2010 K-12 Appropriations Budget stating the although the K-12 funding per student increased statewide by \$28.21, from the 2008-09 fourth calculation – per student funding had declined \$433 from May 2007 to May 2009. President Aronowitz reported to the Council, that the School Board must have the courage to include the millage rate –this legislature has been decreasing its funding from education consistently, and we need to rally the community to urge the School Board to increase the millage rate – we need this for our salaries.

President Aronowitz as part of the power-point presentation highlighted some of the language contained in the CS/CS/SB 1676 K-12 Budget Conforming Bill, which is very important: This bill requires that for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, School Board member salaries shall be the lesser of the amount to the salary of beginning teachers in the district; Provides that elected School District Superintendents may reduce their salaries voluntarily and requires that elected Superintendent salaries be reduced by 2% in the 2009-2010 school year. President Aronowitz also stated that it prohibits school districts from entering into contracts for the school Superintendent in excess of \$225,000 and it also encourages school districts with appointed superintendents to negotiate a 5% reduction in salary for year 2009-2010. President Aronowitz reported that it also allows the district to establish the total annual number of required days of service for employees – the standard of at least 196 contract days has been removed from the law. It also stated that contracts for principals, and other school site administrators, and instructional personnel may not require more than 10 calendar months of service unless specifically approved by the school district – President Aronowitz reiterated that this law is effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Question/Answer Session Followed.

President Aronowitz also stated that all of the information regarding this legislative briefing will be placed on the UTD Website.

#### ***Outcome for Contract Ratification (2-3days issue)***

President Aronowitz stated she was extremely proud of this Council of Stewards, and the members of the Bargaining unit, in making a very difficult decision. We had over 19,000 of our bargaining unit members vote, the election was democratic and a democratic process was in place. President Aronowitz stated that after the counting of the Ballots by the Internal Functions Committee, the results were 15,504 YES Votes, and 3,980 NO votes.

#### ***Closing of Schools as a Result of the Two-Three Day issue***

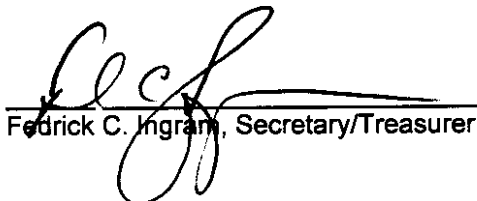
President Aronowitz reminded Stewards of the closing times for schools – On June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>, Elementary schools and K-8 centers will be dismissed at the conclusion of the 3 hour 2 minute days; middle/senior high schools will be dismissed at the conclusion of the 3-hour and 15-minute day.

President Aronowitz also reported that UTD has been getting calls regarding clerical personnel being changed from 12- to 10 month, and reminded the Council of Steward that administrators have latitude on clerical hiring. President Aronowitz also stated that the timing with this has been atrocious since these people find themselves with 3 days being taken and not working –UTD is in discussions with the district so vacation earned time can be expedited and we want these people to be able to cash in their sick leave time just the same as 12 month employees, if they are eligible. (Concerns regarding this situation should be sent to Joe Minor/Michael Molnar)

#### **Adjournment**

President Aronowitz thanked the Council of Stewards for all of their work, and wished everyone a safe and a great summer. With nothing further to discuss, it was moved by Esther Garvett and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
Karen Aronowitz, President

  
Fredrick C. Ingram, Secretary/Treasurer