

Minutes - AFT 2121R General Membership Meeting
June 8, 2021
2:10 - 4:50 PM

Present: Susana Atwood, Joe Berry, Ron Bixler, Guy De Primo, Allan Fisher, Ann Killebrew, Doug Orr, Bill Shields, Debra Wilensky, Tristan Brown

- I. Agenda:
 - The agenda was accepted by acclamation.
- II. Minutes for May 12, 2021:
 - The minutes were revised.
 - The revised minutes were approved as amended.
- III. Check-ins
Time was provided for those present to share.
- IV. California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) Update: Tina Martin
 - No verbal report was given.
 - The next CARA meeting in San Francisco is Thursday, June 10.
- V. Financial Literacy and Retirement Planning virtual workshop requests
 - Doug Orr reported that no new CFT Workshops have been set up in the past month.
 - Doug's April 8 Retirement 101 Workshop for CFT was recorded, and can be edited and used.
- VI. Oral History Project: Bill Shields
 - Bill Shields explained that the CCSF Labor and Community Studies Department had developed a Workers Oral History Collaboration with the SFSU Labor Archives. Original interviews were done with workers. Catherine Powell of SFSU trained them in how to do the interviews. Harvey Schwartz of ILWU provided advice. The interviews are housed in the SFSU Labor Archives.
 - Work Tales, a project based on the interviews, created distilled versions of the workers stories and staged them as performances. Work Tales collaborators included UNITE Local 2 hotel workers, The Women's Collective - La Colectiva, SEIU Local 87 janitors, and Local 510 Sign and Display. The locals used the collaborations to advance their agendas.
 - Other Oral History work includes the 1970's Radical Elders Oral History Project in San Francisco. Joe Berry has worked with the University of Iowa Labor Center's oral history project. The University of Washington has an oral history project now on the lives of workers during the pandemic.
 - Bill Shields feels that there should be an oral history project for our older AFT 2121 activists where they talk about their work, lives, and union activism. Does AFT 2121R want to do this for our union elders?

- Joe Berry noted that there is a long tradition for oral history. The UC Bancroft Library has sponsored interviews, some with labor people. Harvey Schwartz at ILWU, who has taught at CCSF, is the papa of labor oral history in the Bay Area. Older union activists would be more at ease being interviewed by us, who are similar in age and have more background knowledge.
- Ann Killebrew reminded us that Fred Glass has video of some of our union activists and of people across the state. Joe Berry added that Roger Scott has done a number of videos, and that Fred Glass did some wonderful interviews with Alex Alexander, that are in Golden Lands, Working Hands.
- Bill Shields proposed establishing an AFT 2121 Oral History Archive at the SFSU Labor Archive. We could submit anything that has already been done and then do new interviews to balance the collection. The steps would be to establish a committee, contact Fred Glass, Roger Scott, and Catherine Powell, see if AFT 2121 wants to be involved, have Catherine Powell do a training, devise our interview questions, invite Harvey Schwartz to give advice, and proceed from there.
- Bill Shields, Ron Bixler and Joe Berry expressed interest in being on the committee.
- Guy De Primo noted that our bylaws require us to prepare a document and approve it at a meeting to establish a committee. Guy will send out a draft of the document.
- Debra Wilensky suggested that a blast be sent out inviting interested members to join the committee.
- It was agreed by the membership that there should be a working group meeting for those interested in this committee.

VII. AFT 2121 Updates

A. AFT 2121 Delegate Assembly Meeting

- The AFT 2121 Delegate Assembly met on Tuesday, May 25, 3 - 5 PM.
- Doug Orr reported that the big discussion was of a resolution to support Anita Martinez for Interim Chancellor. The resolution passed by 25 to 3.
- The Academic Senate, by a similarly overwhelming vote, has also passed a resolution endorsing Anita Martinez for Interim Chancellor.
- The resolutions will go the Board of Trustees. Joe Berry expressed his hope that they would be distributed outside the college to be a statement.
- Doug Orr noted that there was a discussion of a vision for the Delegate Assembly going forward. Among the ideas was having better communication and coordination among the various activist groups at CCSF.
- The Bargaining Team will be starting up again to bargain about implementation of the agreement and to do impact (COVID) bargaining.
- How many classes will be on campus in the Fall is still being negotiated. To meet the safety criteria, on-campus classes have to be smaller; so to meet the enrollment for a class may require more than one section. Funding for those extra sections would come out of HEERF money. The union will push for this. It would reduce even more the layoffs of the part-timers.

AFT 2121 COPE Meeting: Doug Orr

- This past month's two scheduled AFT 2121 COPE meetings were cancelled.

- B. AFT 2121 Executive Board Meeting
 - The AFT 2121 Executive Board last met May 11.
 - The Executive Board will have a virtual retreat at the end of June. They may have an Executive Board meeting in July.
- C. Postcards, etc. and Actions
 - Joe Berry noted that, the college has agreed to print and send postcards, and there is a plan to distribute schedules at community events this Summer. When that gels, a blast should be sent to our members requesting assistance with distributing postcards and schedules.
 - Susana Atwood added that this is a big victory for which Leslie Simon deserves serious credit. She went to every single PGC and Academic Senate subcommittee to campaign for this, and she came up with a way to fund it.
 - **2021-06-08-1-MSP (by acclamation)**
Motion by Joe Berry, seconded by Doug Orr:
AFT 2121R thanks and praises Leslie Simon for her work in getting the printing and mailing of postcards approved, and the Chapter stands ready to help in their distribution.
 - Ann Killebrew will write a draft letter to Leslie Simon expressing the sentiments above, circulate it for suggestions, and mail it to her.
- D. Other
 - None.

VIII. CFT Reports

- A. Community College Council (CCC)
 - The CCC has not met since our last meeting.
 - Many of the California Community College locals are in bargaining and trying to forestall layoffs of part-timers. Everyone is struggling with this.
- B. Council of Retired Members (CRM)
 - Ann Killebrew reported on the election of CRM officers. Dennis Cox was elected President. Sandra Baringer was reelected Secretary. Cecilia Boskin, from UTLA, was elected Vice President for Southern California. Ann Killebrew was reelected Vice President for Northern California. Michael Nye is At-Large Representative.
 - CRM is supposed to get new Retiree Chapters started. There have been problems; there will hopefully be movement on this soon.
- C. Legislation
 - Tristan Brown, CFT Legislative Advocate, joined our Zoom meeting and gave us a legislative update. He noted that there are fewer controversial bills this year. The legislature has been busy dealing with COVID-related matters.

- He shared the link:
<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=21&id=d8eb170b-8125-48db-8b84-a6c8f2ae8e2b>
 for a CFT Legislative Update page for legislation of interest to the Council of Retired Members.

Among the bills of interest to retirees, Tristan Brown updated us on:

- AB-386 - Watch. It changes confidentiality requirements for Public Employees' Retirement Fund private equity agreements to match investment world practices. Transparency is retained on who accepts the loan; the loan terms, size, and repayment plan; and what happens in the event of a default.
- AJR-9 - Support. It would send to Congress from the California Assembly a request to eliminate the government pension offset and the windfall elimination provision. CFT did a push to Congress in support of their two bills to do this.
- AB-551 - Support. It authorizes STRS to manage IRAs. It has become a 2 year bill which means it will be delayed until next year.
- SB-294 - Co-sponsor with CTA. It removes the 12-year limitation on STRS service credit granted to employees on leaves of absence for service as elected officers of employee organizations.
- SB-457 - Oppose. It is our must-kill bill. It would allow school districts to screen out, in PERS and STRS, investment vehicles issued or owned by the Republic of Turkey. It is a very bad precedent.

Among the matters of interest to CFT members, Tristan Brown noted the following:

- Most of the Orange county Republicans who author anti-pension bills lost their seats in the last election, so we had a reprieve this year.
- For the CFT bill-package, we are running at about 50% of where we started.
- There are two wealth-tax bills in the Assembly that would raise over \$22 billion a year. A wealth tax proposition will hopefully be on the November 2024 ballot.
- It has been hard this year to lobby Sacramento. Due to COVID, we have to phone it in. CFT has been relying on its many friends in the legislature.
- CalBright is hopefully ending this year.
- SB-505 - Sponsor. This bill has strong legislative support. It requires that if an employee is overpaid, districts must make a good faith effort to agree with the employee on a repayment plan before using a collection agency.
- CFT remains involved in negotiations with the state about closing and reopening the public education system. Right now, CFT is trying to effect how independent study will be upgraded to fill the void of distance learning which is expiring this month. Many families and students will still want a virtual option. The legislature and the governor have different ideas in the budget for this.
- The Governor increased community college funding. The legislature increased COLAs above the Governor's proposal, and picked and chose winners and losers in terms of programming for the community colleges. The legislature and Governor are negotiating; we should know more next week.

- Other educational expenditure increases include the new universal transition kindergarten, increased professional development funding, and funding to lowering student-adult ratios in classrooms.
- Community colleges are dealing with enrollment decreases, which then affect funding. CFT wants to start a workgroup to find a better funding formula. Right now, the winds are blowing in the direction of student outcomes and the student-centered funding formula, which is not what we are envisioning.
- CFT has been trying to get more funding into adult education. We have joined with the adult education management groups to have better accountability on consortias' year-to-year carryovers. Some have had really high dollar amounts that they are not spending, which undermines our argument that the entire system needs more money. CFT is asking those with high carryovers to write a plan showing what they are saving it for or what they are going to spend it on; they can't just sit on it.

The questions for Tristan Brown were:

- Doug Orr inquired about the proposed contribution to PERS and STRS. Tristan Brown reported that the Governor wants to pay down the state part, the money would not go towards keeping the employer contribution rate lower. CFT has appealed to the legislature.
- Ann Killebrew asked about police education reform. Tristan stated that SB-387, the Portantino bill that would require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to work with stakeholders on developing education requirements for police, was moved on the inactive file. It is encouraging that the bill made it out of its committee and out of the appropriations committee. CFT can work to bring it back next year.
- Tristan Brown shared a second link:
<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=21&id=6bdfecd1-8585-4d6e-b034-fa270d655fa8>
 for a regularly-updated CFT Legislative Update page that shows all bills that CFT is tracking.
- Tristan Brown shared his email: tbrown@cft.org and invited us to contact him if we have questions about specific bills.

IX. CCSF Participatory Governance Committee, Budget Committee

Susana Atwood's report included the following points:

- CFO John Al-Amin's latest projected budget for July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, shows a \$4 million surplus. He is not positive it will stay at that figure, but the original budget showed a \$5 million deficit, so we are \$9 million to the good for this year, which helps us for next year.
- John Al-Amin said CCSF will close the books earlier for the current fiscal year and will have the auditor in earlier. We might have audit reports by the end of December, which is helpful. Last fiscal year's audit reports came this past April.
- SFCCD's bond rating by Moody's has gone down. John Al-Amin said this is not a big deal as we are not selling any bonds over the next 18 months.

- Susana Atwood believes that the report from Moody's got three things wrong. 1. They said our hold harmless funding was based on our 2020 enrollment - it is based on our 2017-2018 enrollment. 2. They said our 5% minimum reserve must be cash - that is preferred but not required. 3. They said our hold harmless ends June 2026 - we have been stating it ends June 2024.
- Susana Atwood has since found a Chancellor's Office report, "Joint Analysis: Enacted 2020-21 Budget: July 2, 2020," that says hold harmless lasts until June 2026 for Compton College and City College of San Francisco.
- The five-year budget passed by the Board of Trustees states that hold harmless ends June 2024. Has the Board made a huge mistake? Malaika Finkelstein and Alayna Fredericks are trying to find out.
- John Al-Amin addressed two line items on which Susana Atwood had raised questions. 1. SERP payments were made last July and again this May. Susana posited that last July's payment was for the previous fiscal year. John Al-Amin said they investigated, and Susana is right. We paid both SERP payments in the current fiscal year which puts us way over budget on that line item. 2. The workers comp actual expenditures are double what is budgeted. Susana asked about this. John Al-Amin said, there were a lot of claims.
- The Governor's May revise gave us a 3.2 million COLA increase. However, the deficit factor claw-back is close to \$3 million. So the net for CCSF is no increase.
- Doug Orr noted that if John Al-Admin had admitted in bargaining that there was a \$4 million surplus instead of a \$5 million deficit, the negotiated pay cuts would have been a lot smaller.

X. Treasurer's Report: Susana Atwood

A. Report

- No update was received this month for the AFT 2121 retiree dues report.
- Yvonne Whitelaw did confirm that the \$648 Hartford entry in last month's dues report was an error, and it has been corrected.

B. Approvals of reimbursements for scheduled expenses:

- None

C. CalSTRS Dues and Deductions Summary

- Starting this month, CalSTRS has switched its monthly Dues Deductions Reports from paper delivery to email delivery.
- We check the report monthly because CalSTRS does made mistakes.

XI. Membership

A. Cadre of members interested in membership, not meetings.

- Ann Killebrew said it is time to talk about resuming social activities, like a walk.
- Suggestions included doing the across San Francisco walks starting with the Philosopher's Trail in McLaren Park, and doing a walk at Crissy Field, Lands End, or Stow Lake. The consensus was a walk at Land's End.

- In July, instead of a meeting, we will have a walk at Land's End on Thursday, July 15. Meet at 10:45 AM, Walk at 11 AM. Bring a bag lunch.

B. Recruitment of newly retiring ESL faculty

- Ann Killebrew had received a spreadsheet with information on people in ESL who are retiring. They will be sent invitations to join AFT 2121R.

C. Retiree and retirement Q & A from CFT

- Ann Killibrew noted that she had sent us a Q & A from the San Diego Retiree Chapter. Their web page has some good stuff on membership. Their how to join page looked good.
- The AFT 2121 office has sent us no notifications of new members applying. People applying to join AFT 2121R currently have to do it by mailing a check, as dues cannot be paid to AFT 2121 online.
- Debra Wilensky reported that she made and brought AFT 2121R membership flyers and distributed them at the ESL, Math, and AFT picnics.
- Susana Atwood inquired of Doug Orr whether the list of retirees used in bargaining can be shared. Doug will double check with Malaika Finkelstein, and send it to Ann if it is public.
- Guy De Primo reminded Ann Killebrew of her agreement at last month's meeting to write and distribute a letter to new retirees inviting them to join AFT 2121R. Ann will work on it.

XII. Other:

- Guy De Primo noted that our web page could use some updating.
- Guy De Primo reported that he has been sending our approved minutes all this year to the AFT Office to be posted on our AFT 2121R web page. Hopefully they will be posted soon.
- Ann Killebrew asked if anyone could fix errors on our web page if they had access. Guy De Primo said he might be able to.

XIII. Date for next meeting:

- Tuesday, August 10, 2:00 PM, by Zoom.
Meetings generally last somewhat more than two hours.

XIV. Adjourn:

- Adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy De Primo, Secretary

Approval Date: August 10, 2021