



Bergen Community College

Faculty Association

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BCCFA General Membership Meeting

Minutes of Meeting of November 28, 2006

3-3:45 pm

BCC Main Theatre

Quorum Present

1. The meeting was called to order at 3 pm.
2. BCCFA President Helff made brief opening remarks:
 - The Board of Trustees is designing a process for the upcoming Presidential Search and after approving it will notify the college community;
 - Go to your 3 pm classes, if you have them;
 - The negotiation over released time for the BCCFA President continues.
3. Helff, using Power Point (!), pointed out that the State Legislature's plan regarding health benefits for state workers is for a 10% co-pay for health care.

He announced that the bus, or buses, on Monday, December 11, 2006, will leave the college at 8:30 am and return by 4 pm.

4. Kaufman informed members to use a personal day or a vacation day on December 11. If you are a teaching faculty member, you will need to fill out a personal day form. On that form you will need to indicate how the material that your class misses on that day will be covered. Requests without such information may not be approved by the administration. The administration suggests that faculty try to get their classes covered by colleagues who will not be attending the rally, but if this is not feasible then the personal day form must be filled out as indicated above.

5. Rosanne Spino, NJEA Field Representative, addressed the membership. Among the things she pointed out:

- We have earned our pensions, and they are not, as some seem to believe, entitlements;
- The NJEA is actively speaking with legislators, and applying pressure on them. NJEA contributed significantly to the elections of many of these people, working for them, manning phone banks, after all;
- All members are asked to do two things:
 - a. Contact your legislators, via email or snail mail, and
 - b. Go to njea.org—using your pin number and pass code. There you will find useful information, including material for letters that you can send to legislators.

Spino handed out three sheets prepared by NJEA, with information about the recent Legislative Session, recommendations for the membership in response to Legislative recommendations, and information for sample letters to legislators.

Spino made the point that we have paid for our benefits over time, and they are earned credits. She expressed optimism about our ability to affect the legislative process. She further pointed out that the money saved by instituting a co-pay on health benefits will not go to property-tax relief, but will simply stay with the community colleges or school boards and will be used by those entities.

Following Spino's remarks, questions were taken.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.