

Notes: 8/8/04

Joe Berry – Introduction – Announcements

1. Blue packet...second city – directions behind map
2. Right side of folder,
 - a. a statement of support for CEW passed by Education International, passed at behest of AFT
 - b. Resolution on behalf of CEW committee
 - c. Invitation to join ADJ-L listserv
 - d. Research Director position open at UEW
3. Support resolution from UNITE!
4. TV coverage on ABC
5. Article in Chicago Tribune – Joe reads article 8/8/04 (on website) – article describes demonstration and grievances – considers coverage a major victory
6. Haymarket tour – all interested should show up at Congress & Wabash – 10:00-3:00, lunch stop, but not covered by fee

President of Part-time Faculty Association at Columbia – Peter Insley

1. Welcomes on behalf of the college
2. Union organized in 1998
3. Staff about to turn in cards for vote in October
4. “We’ve found our voice, we hope all of you find yours.”

Moderator Joan Grosse (Madison-area Part-time Teachers Association)

Report by Chris Storer on 2003 CEW (Campus Equity Week)

CEW 2001 vs 2003

2003 from the point of the view of the coordinator was significantly smaller, 2001 250 campuses, 2003 about 50. 2001 was centrally coordinated, 2003 involved the major unions, especially AFT and AAUP; NEA was noticeably absent. We need to raise the questions from the grassroots as to whether NEA is committed to part-time faculty. The Canadian Fair Employment Week was carried through at a higher level by CAUT & FNEEQ. One of the significant issues was that the steering committee spent 30-50% of its conference call time to raise funds (albeit 20% less than 2001). Not necessarily a problem if we see CEW/FEW carried out through the national organizations; however if we want to reach non-organized areas it will require central coordination and travel time. One of the things we determined was the basic statement at bottom of green sheet: CEW/FEW should have a determined point of time...the basic argument is that in its relationship to COCAL the Fall is the best time for a regularly scheduled CEW/FEW – last week of October, possibly stretching into the November.

Reports from Strategy Groups:

Metro-Local Strategy Group – Gary Zabel (Boston COCAL)

We did come up with a number of strategic principles...not necessarily agreement...

---Develop an inside-outside strategy ...tap union resources but also draw on social movement resources

---Maintain a social-movement orientation; Canadians talked about links with student movement and other strands of labor movement

---Read through seven principles developed by Joe

- strategy must be for
- strategy must take into account lack of job security...resulting fear
- new majority faculty are now part of the working class
- strategy must understand that contingent faculty are part of a casualized workforce
- organizational forms must be allowed to be very fluid and not necessarily part of the trade union structure
- strategy must be democratic in form...
- a strategy must be inside-outside

National & International Strategies Workshop – Mary Ellen Goodwin

The session was interesting.

- Strong opposition to the idea of an international coordinator
- Keeping it a loose organization, passing coordination from conference to conference; time in between spent raising funds for coordinator
- The anarchy, creative chaos needs to be protected
- Bring more students into the movement
 - Reach out to graduate students
- For next conference, make a strong effort for greater international involvement; Australia, UK, France, Germany – address globalization

Ultimate Vision – Barbara Gottfried

- Originally planned for Rich Moser to chair
- Five speakers, two groups:
 - How do we want to think about the contingent faculty? What is the appropriate metaphor
 - Rich Moser: Community of Scholars & Academic Citizenship
 - Vinny Terelli: Class Analytic model
 - Alyssa & Joseline: Including other academic workers; developed a new category – consultants...people who are using the adjunct position professionally
 - Steve Wilson: look at boards of trustees
 - There isn't any one way of defining contingent academic labor...corresponds to the creative anarchy

LGBT Caucus – David Milroy

- Contingent faculty are the most at risk for losing employment
- LGBT issues in instruction – heightens risk
- Include topic in all COCAL meetings either as a caucus or as a presentation

Women's Caucus – Elena Dorabji (CFA – San José State)

- Data gathering on female contingency –long term contingency – create a databank as does CFA

- Women faculty are even more exploited as contingent faculty

Proposals:

Green Sheet: Campus Equity Week

Joan reads proposal on CEW: calls for support of recommendation on timing of CEW/FEW

Comments:

Flo Hatcher: Add FEW to title of resolution

Vicky Smallman: CAUT has had this discussion - make it an annual event at the end of October

Joe Berry: Draw attention to report below resolution; not have a centrally planned CEW in the US in 2004 due to elections; but one in 2005; website will still be available as a resource

Flo Hatcher: The operative term is “centrally coordinated” – would encourage anyone who sees this as an opportunity to recruit membership; the website is useful – aid local plans

Maria : For us it is very important for a campaign for justice in university to participate ..we [lost track of translation]

Maria Peluso: Want's to reinforce CAUT's position; we are always going to have a CEW activity. Likely at different times; Marie Blais – we had a strike the last time – many issues at the same time – we tried activities during CEW – well covered by the media

Betty Resnikof (sp): recommend that we not take a stand not to have CEW this year; elections are an opportunity; call on all candidates to take a stand on what's happening; even if its just LTEs; put contingency on the national agenda

Joe Berry: Call question on resolution

Linda Evans AFT 2026 – Philadelphia: We have to be risk takers; AFT conference want us to be behind Kerry – I am behind Kerry, but I want someone to be behind *me*. My issue is equally as important as yours; I want my issue next to yours. Everybody is “throw-Bush-out.” I don't if people have made up their mind to postpone their issue – our issue is part of the larger issue – of all the workers...I am part of the poor and the working class. It needs to be part of the discussion. These organizations that are behind – AFT & NEA should be challenged to put the issues to Kerry. When I was at the AFT conference, “I need you to make our issue top...outspoken.” K-12 issues are real prominent, but we need to make our issues prominent... “We need to call them on the carpet.” Thanks Betty's position on resolution

Steve Wilson (CFA) – CFA has been very active with CEW in the past; the idea of being able to take a year off from CEW sounded good. Took a long time to recover from CEW 2001. Time to think about what can be done different; fatigue is a major issue, need to get energy behind; Betty's remarks suggest that we can get some energy from elections.

Rodger Scott (AFT 2121): Supports resolution; good idea to get it into campaign dialogue.

Flo Hatcher: Suggests an addendum: something appear on the website that will help member constituents to address some of the issues that have been brought to the discussion

Steve Wilson: Point of Order – are we going to vote on the resolution as it is – that there is going to be no central coordination for CEW. Mary Ellen: resolution says that there will be no central coordination

Vicki Smallman: resolution itself says nothing about this year. This week is a very decentralized campaign; it's really up to locals and nationals to decide what they want to do...a flexible campaign; no need for a huge debate – only local associations will decide

Flo Hatcher: A centrally planned campaign requires a paid coordinator; we don't have the money to pay for one; time spent on the website is donated by Chris Storer; if we want it coordinated we should pay for it

Elizabeth Hoffman (CFA): Could some of the CEW steering committee prepare a short statement to communicate with Kerry's committee and suggest what an important issue this is – DISCUSSION about which committee – CEW committee or COCAL committee?

Mary Ellen Goodwin: COCAL CA will take up issue in caucus, then bring it to advisory committee. COCAL Advisory Committee is make a recommendation to the CEW Committee

Helena Worthen: Asks for clarification of the resolution...

Question called: Resolution Passed

Resolution: Next COCAL

Jack Longmate (WA state) – Next COCAL should be located in Pacific Northwest; People from BC are supportive

Vicki: CIEA (Vancouver) will explore having it in BC

Request for consecutive translation

Maria de la Luz Ariaga: (translated) We comrades from Mexico think that work you do here are important for enhancing our cause... We Mexicans are known for having our doors open for every visitor. Propose that the 8th COCAL be held in Mexico.

Proposal: Orange Sheet – Resolution in opposition to NLRB ruling barring graduate student organizing under the NLRA at private schools

Gabe Kirshner (AFT 3550): Graduate student and teacher, Bush NLRB ruled against graduate employees at Brown U. organizing. (reads resolution)

Resolution passed unanimously

Joe Berry addresses Workers' Rights Workshop Resolution: Purple sheet. The resolution will help effort to hold teach-ins across the US. Resolution concludes with call for teach-ins and states support general effort to involve students in the support of workers' rights to organize.

Resolution seconded: question called; passed unanimously

Joan reads another resolution from Legislative Strategies Workshop:

Be it resolved that the Faculty leadership present at COCAL VI urges that their (inter)national unions and professional organizations, in concert with progressive legislators and non-academic (inter)national unions, restart the necessary process of fundamental reform of US national labor law that all workers in all occupations are able to exercise the fundamental right to organize and unionize.

...concern that our representatives in congress have a “that all workers in all occupations are able to exercise the fundamental right to organize and unionize”

...Chris clarifies...not intended to bring to house tomorrow

Maria Peluso: clarify that resolution refers to US ...change resolution to read “US national labor law”

...Mexico would want to add... “counter-reform”

Bob Rosenfeld (U.Mass-Boston)...ensure that labor law of all nations fulfill the ability of all workers to organize, unionize, and negotiate...

Chris Storer: last proposal re-writes resolution.

Gary Zabel: intention of resolution is to get American unions...to expand it robs it of its political weight

Alyssa Messer: To ‘restart the reform’ is too vague

Marcia Newfield: good resolution because it sparks more vision; could expand it ...living wage...health for all; resolution would benefit from a lot of “whereas...” Look at how each state reformed its labor law; could be helpful tool to educate workers about law...help unite workers around world...

Vicky Smallman: We may not be ready for this...not sure that this is our purpose...appreciate spirit...move onto caucuses

Betty Resnickof (UIC): Value of COCAL resolutions – resource for all of us, for example, CEW situations or meeting with candidates for office...content for flyer...not just our personal opinions but also that of COCAL

Chris Storer: Moves to refer resolution to advisory committee and next COCAL (VII) Passes

Maria de la Luz Arriaga: We would like to propose a general resolution from COCAL VI Resolution: COCAL VI declares itself in favor of demanding the exclusion of education from the free trade agreements because they accelerate the privatization and increase contingent labor in education

Helena Worthen: requests the maker of resolution to explain what “exclusion from free trade agreements” means.

Vicky Smallman: Makers of neo-liberalism want to commodify everything...including education by including it in free-trade agreements. Progressives are fighting to keep it out of the free-trade agreements. Any further definition of the GATS, etc.

Joe Berry: There may be some people are not aware of how this is going to work. The free-trade agreements classify certain things as commodities to be trade freely and restricts governments from regulating the flow of the commodities, e.g. challenges to US regulations on fishing and dolphins. If education is reclassified as a commodity—article of commerce--...public sector education, then any private sector company could force their way into countries...e.g. University of Phoenix could file complaints in the WTO and force their way into every other country in the world and force the countries to give up internal controls and subsidies to higher education in those countries... Capital will define what will happen to higher education in those countries.

Marie Blais; 80% of universities in Quebec receive funds from govt. Accessibility of poor people will be reduced...that’s why our unions have opposed free trade agreements covering education.

Question called; passed unanimously

Arturo Ramos proposes a resolution: This sixth conference of COCAL supports the struggle of the workers of the Mexican Institute of Social Security against the privatization of social security and the pension system and in defense of their collective bargaining agreement. We especially declare ourselves in favor of the right of the people of Mexico to count on a system of high quality social security as a fundamental expression of their human rights.

Passed unanimously

Maria de la Luz Arriaga: The teachers from Mexico would like to thank you all for the opportunity to share our ideas utopias; we would like to also thank you for the financial support, human warmth, solidarity. We would like to give Joe Berry a small gift from Mexican artists...and a bottle of Tequila [applause].

Joe Berry: Move to other building 624... Caucus rooms are listed in the program... Those caucuses are to run for an hour...on the 10th floor...box lunches...then regional caucuses from noon – 1:30 p.m.... Polls people on attendance of caucuses AFT, NEA, CAUT, AAUP, CUPE, Mexican caucus...Room 909 may be used by COCAL-California. Advisory Committee to meet at 1:30 at Congress and Wabash.