Florida SouthWestern State College Faculty Federation Meeting

September 26, 2014

The meeting was called order by the president. The minutes from the August meeting were approved.

The main purpose of this meeting was to help faculty members know their contract.

Before the contract workshop began, Ellie Bunting mentioned the importance of getting out to vote in the November election. She passed out some literature from UFF urging people to vote.

Marty Ambrose began the discussion of faculty rights pointing out the sections in the contract dealing with faculty workloads, faculty evaluations, and other issues relation to faculty mostly found in section 6 of the contract. It is important to realize that any violation of the contract by the administration is subject to the grievance procedure. This is why it is important for faculty to know their contract.

The section of the contract on the Weingarten Rights was pointed out. Marty explained that anytime a union member is called into an administrator’s office to discuss any issue that is related to terms and conditions of employment (including evaluation that may result in action being taken against the faculty member) the faculty member has a right to union representation and does not need to meet until a rep can attend. The union is going to issue special cards to all members listing the language in this law and giving contact information for the union representatives.

Ellie Bunting mentioned that the union has been dealing with various faculty issues since the semester began including intellectual property rights, academic freedom, and failure to follow due process. We had filed two grievances, both of which were resolved before going to step 2 in the process.

Next month’s meeting will focus on the many benefits union members receive from our national and state affiliates.

(note: our secretary, Mary Conwell, was unable to attend this meeting, so these minutes are not up to the usual excellent reporting that Mary records).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellie Bunting