

President's Minute

Dear colleagues: I wish you well at the start of the new academic year and am proud to represent you as chapter president. We face many challenges to public education and public sector bargaining at the national, state and local levels, but we are strong – APSCUF strong! - and will rise above these challenges to continue doing what we do best: to advocate for quality, affordable education and the appropriate level of support for the highly-trained professionals who deliver it.

This year will be jam-packed with issues so I urge you to stay involved. Our 1-year contract expires at the end of June 2019, so please read these newsletters and attend meetings to stay informed on the state of negotiations. Here at WCU, we have recently been informed of the final phase of the reorganization of the university, and APSCUF has participated in the hiring of a number of new, high-level administrators. We are welcoming another large class of tenure track faculty, and probably more adjunct faculty than ever before.

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Member of the Month

Name:

Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum
Languages and Cultures

Time at WCU: 5 years

Favorite thing about WCU:

A dozen different languages are taught at WCU, we're a global campus educating future global citizens!



Why APSCUF is important to me: APSCUF helps unite faculty, students, and the community in defense of quality education.

Interesting fact about you people should know: I'm filming a documentary, "Twin Tongues: Learning English in América," on the relationship between languages, cultures, and identity in the Hispanic community of Philadelphia.

News 2 Use: APSCUF Post-Janus

As you probably know, in June the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Janus v AFSCME* that ends public unions' ability to collect fair-share payments from non-members, but still allows non-members access to union representation.

The most immediate impact on most public employee unions is financial. While APSCUF's membership rate is very high, we have had fair-share-paying non-members over the years, and perhaps our major task in the near term is to encourage everyone to join. Remember, as always, that every single faculty member, no matter their rank, status, or workload, is eligible to join.

In addition, we need all our members to register the importance of being actively engaged in union solidarity. The *Janus* decision isn't just a legal matter. It's part of a broad attack against unions and workers; union and worker solidarity is the

only response to those attacks with any chance of beating them.

If you were here in Fall 2016 when we struck, you already know what that solidarity looks and feels like. It took all of us hitting the sidewalks to show the former chancellor that we wouldn't sit by while he damaged our system and our students; we may not need that particular kind of action again, but we need to be ready to stand together, all the time, in response to efforts to undercut higher education, public institutions of all kinds, and workers in all sectors.

Put simply, *Janus* has drawn the lines more clearly than ever. When somebody asks "Whose side are you on," we need to be on the same side.

In solidarity, Seth Kahn

“President’s Minute” continued

Because of the Janus decision we no longer have fair share members, so we are also in the heat of an important member re-commitment campaign. Please be sure that you have returned your new member card to state APSCUF, and be sure that you have also made a donation to CAP (committee for action in politics). Even giving \$.50 or \$1 a paycheck will make a difference for our lobbying and advocacy efforts.

As an example, APSCUF has led in the creation of the PA Promise campaign (SB 1111 and HB 2444), which features free tuition at the PASSHE schools and much more. We will hold a rally in Harrisburg for the bills on October 16 and I want to send a couple of busses of WCU faculty there. APSCUF has endorsed Tom Wolf for governor, who is running against one of the most anti-education and anti-union candidates since Tom Corbett. Every vote counts to defeat the candidate

who says our state system universities will “be done in four years.” By contrast, Wolf told us last spring that he would veto any anti-labor or right to work bill that makes it to his desk. He understands and supports the work of APSCUF and the System. It’s not hyperbole to say that if Scott Wagner wins the governorship, we and our students will lose.

“Our 1-year contract expires at the end of June 2019, so please read these newsletters and attend meetings to stay informed on the state of negotiations.”

Every member is free to actively persuade and recruit non-members into the bargaining unit by getting them to sign a member card. This includes adjunct faculty, who have always been represented by APSCUF, and

coaches, who are a vital part of our bargaining unit. WE are APSCUF, and WE (each of us) need to show our commitment through membership and solidarity.

Best,

Mark Rimple
WCU APSCUF President

Contributors Wanted

Thank you for reading the first issue of our local APSCUF chapter’s newsletter. Our hope is have the newsletter reflect the kind of content our members want to see (as well as the stuff we *need* to see such as Seth’s piece on Janus and Mark’s call for involvement).

If you have an interest in writing, doing public relations, helping with social media, etc. then please reach out to Mike Boyle via email (mboyle@wcupa.edu) or stop by his office in 238 Wayne Hall.

Consider this an official call for participation from our members to contribute to the monthly newsletter. If you don’t want to write anything but would like to be featured as our Member of the Month, please let Mike know that as well.

Thank you,
APSCUF WCU PR team

Did You Know?

APSCUF was formed in 1937 for faculty from the teaching colleges in Pennsylvania. Our union now includes faculty and coaches from the fourteen publicly owned universities in PA.

The campus office for APSCUF at WCU is located at 811 Roslyn Avenue, behind Sykes Memorial Union. The office manager is Monika Mayer.

Department Representatives Council will meet Tuesday, September 11 and Tuesday, October 9. Both meetings are 3:30-5:15 and held in FHG Library room 613.

“All Member” Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 14 from 3:30-5:15 (held at BPC 101) and Thursday, November 15 from 3:30-5:15 (held at Sykes 255)