

PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL

March 7, 2006

Attendees: Marcus Courtney, Barbara Rader, Rick Saling, Todd Tollefson, Roberta Wilson, Brian Globerman

By Phone: Erik Landahl, Dan Gillespie

Minutes taken by: Barbara Kempf

Monthly report (Marcus): No new at large members this month. Total of 133 COPE sign ups, over 10% of Cingular.

Merger issues: Do we want to consider merging with other locals? We're looking at a time of tighter resources. Possibilities: Alliance at IBM, Guild (TNG), Qwest. Looking for a commonality of members and purpose in a possible merge. How do you distribute the level of responsibilities? Change committees, structure, etc. Even though we've added the 1000 members at Cingular we're still in a budgetary crunch. Thinking toward the future, should we be thinking of a merge? Membership could change drastically as it has in other locals. Now that Cingular has been bought out by AT&T, anything could happen. So far no directive from national about any merging.

Budget: Bottom line is deficit is down from previous year. About half of our income goes to national. To balance the budget we moved Dan into the core employees and there are other positions that we won't be filling. It will get us through June and then we'll be going through the new budget cycle with CWA. Every six months Cingular employees will be getting pay increases (if they haven't topped out) which will increase dues.

Credit card: We now have one for the office. Rick voiced concern that we may need to make a policy around use, possibly put a dollar limit on use or have a notification process. The executive committee will meet and come up with a policy proposal.

District 7 conference will be in Eugene on 3/27. Nancy Wright and Bill Ferguson from Cingular were approved by PC consensus to go with Marcus.

Training: The brochure for the TechsUnite training is ready. Barbara R. has compared price per credit hour with other institutions. We're a little high and we may want to reconsider our rate or increase the number of credits. Then we may be able to say that it's more competitive. We need to have a better rate for members or it won't be an incentive to join WashTech. Our certification may not mean much. We may consider offering it to Cingular workers too. Dan will be talking to them to see what kinds of classes they want. They may be able to use their tuition reimbursement. Since we aren't a training organization we can't spread ourselves too thin.

Communications Committee (Roberta): We had an article on H1B and disclosure but the bill died in committee in the state legislature. Our story on intellectual property rights hit some nerves. We're going to have an article soon on Microsoft pay levels comparing Boeing and Microsoft as opposite in terms of disclosure. We also had a reality TV offer to go to India to train replacements which we declined.

Legislative Committee (Erik): Erik will be meeting with Jeff Faux, author of **The Global Class War**, in DC next week. There are other meetings scheduled with legislators to try to get them to sign on with the American Dream act, HR4378. We'll be doing a "take

action” on it after they meet with Erik and Marcus next week. No response from Maria Cantwell, not surprisingly.

Membership Committee (Dan): They’ve been looking at a spot for the picnic. A place in Renton was suggested but we’re hoping for something farther north. Dan will get information out about the next membership meeting on 3/20 to members.

Technology Committee (Brian): Our virus protection expired and Black Sheep was notified. We’ll be getting an external firewall for additional protection. We may be able to isolate the electronic grievance process to make it accessible to Cingular organizers.

Good and Welfare: (Marcus) We’re working on an economic report on the IT workforce in response to reports that permanent employment is up 10% in Seattle.

(Rick) He saw Jim McDermott at a progressive Jewish function. He was pretty radical, openly left in his remarks.

(Brian) He wants to do a WalMart movie night. We’ll see if we can plan a night for it.