Committee on Industrial Theory and Assessment  
Meeting Minutes ~ January 24, 2006

Attendees: Bob Forrant, Linda Silka, Cathy Crumbley, Dan Egan, Glen MacDonald, Chad Montrie, Patty Coffey, Ed March, Mike Prokosch, William Mass, Philip Moss, Craig Slatin, Robin Toof, Janet Clark, Tom Sloan, Mignon Duffy and David Turcotte. Meeting minutes were taken by Nancy Hodge.

Update on CITA Book

Bob informed the committee that the new book “Inside and Out” will be out in a few weeks. CITA members were asked to help chose book cover design. Once book is out, committee will host a book signing party.

Update on Fall 2005 Conference

Those working on a book from the past conference include Mike Prokosch, Greg Delaurier, Dan Egan, and Bill Lazonick.

Mike Prokosch is exploring the possibility of having dinner conversations with the three most popular topics from the conference. Mike will prepare a flyer to send out to the fall conference attendees to find the three most popular topics. Mike will also send to the CITA Committee to rank as well. The committee agreed the on the following five choices:

- The shift from the old General Motors lifetime-job model to the low-wage Wal-Mart model. What are the implications for workers and unions? What strategies could increase workers’ collective voice?
- New models of organizing. Unions organize by worksite, employer, and industry; labor law reinforces that. How else can workers organize, who’s trying what, how’s it working?
- High housing costs and stagnant wages are pushing workers out of Massachusetts. Does labor have a role? What should it be?
- Jobs in Massachusetts grew by half a percent last year. What does anemic job growth mean for the state and what can workers and unions do about it?
- How are changes in technology and work processes impacting conditions on the job? What new strategies can build collective voice in the face of ongoing changes in the workplace?
Discussion with the Sustainability Transformation Team

Janet Clark addressed the CITA Committee along with other members of the Sustainability Transformation Team sharing the team’s mission statement as well as the team charter. The team was very interested in the ideas of the CITA Committee and how the two groups can work together to bring focus on sustainability. The two teams expressed a desire to work together to communicate and disseminate information about sustainability and making the work more visible. Ideas included bringing in local people to show what they are doing, gathering new staff to find their views on sustainability, and having more info available on the web. The sustainability link was discussed and Chad will work with Janet to coordinate efforts regarding the web.

The next meeting of the transformation team is set for February 7, 2006 at 12:00 and all are welcome to come.

Plans for the next CITA Conference

A draft announcement was distributed. Target date is Spring 2007. Linda and Bob met with the Provost who will help bring others to help sponsor this event. The length of the conference is still under discussion and the possibility is having one night and two days. CITA members should forward ideas of where to put the call for papers. Anyone on the committee that wishes to work on a book from that conference needs to contact Bob or Linda. Robin Toof agreed to help with the book.

Miscellaneous

The group was asked to give thought on possible new members of the CITA committee; individuals that would be interested in CITA’s work. Topic will be placed on next month’s agenda.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2006 in RESD at 12:15