

## HAPPY NEW YEAR, UUP!

*Michelle Hansen, UUP Oneonta Vice President for Professionals*

Welcome to 2021 UUPers!

I hope this message finds you all well. New year, same issues raging on in the world around us, but I hope that many of you took some time off to relax and recoup. I know for me I took an extended break from most of the screens I own, and it was glorious. I also sit here and struggle to get started after an extended leave, so I want to share some tips that help get me moving.

First and foremost, give yourself a break. You need to ease in. Triage that inbox and then set up some time over the next day in your calendar that is set aside to answer the rest – using the blocking your calendar method can be helpful to give you focus time.

Next, I recommend prioritizing your to-do list. Not every single thing needs to get done on this first day back. I try to put my tasks into categories using the Eisenhower Matrix (google it for full details) but essentially helps me to get done things done by the level of priority I assign.

Take a break. Especially those working from home, experts say that you should be resting your eyes and moving your body at least once per hour. When we are in “normal” times, we do this automatically with meetings, and events. Working from home, or in an emptier office suite on campus, try to be a bit more mindful about moving. Try to do those couple of dishes in your sink, take a lap around the house, just get out of your chair/couch/recliner, and stretch for a moment.

Last tip is to try and schedule your meetings for later in the week. Give yourself some time to get caught up before diving into making that to-do list even longer.

As we move further into the spring semester, please take note of the upcoming dates out of the UUP office. President Lincoln, VP Bishop and I will be planning seminars, and virtual office hours. In addition, there will be an announcement about nominations/elections for executive board so if you are interested in becoming more involved, we encourage you to reach out.



*Michelle*

### CHAPTER ELECTIONS TIMELINE

UUP Oneonta will be hosting an informational forum in January, date TBD, for members who may be interested in running for Delegate or an office to come ask questions and hear about the elections process. Below is the outline of chapter elections. This information is also posted at <https://uupinfo.org/elections/chapter.php>.

#### Chapter Elections

- Election Certification Date (This is the date you must sign up to be a member by in order to run or vote in the upcoming election) 01/14/21
- Mail Chapter & Affiliate Nomination Forms 01/21/21 - 01/22/21
- Chapter & Affiliate Nominations Close 02/17/21
- Chapter Nomination Lists Posted to Web 02/19/21
- Mail Chapter Elections Ballots 03/10/21 - 03/12/21
- Chapter Elections Ballots Due 04/14/21
- Count Chapter Elections Ballots 04/15/21 - 04/16/21



Conduct Run-off  
Elections as required

# NEW YEAR UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE UUP

Colleagues,

With so much happening regarding our work with SUNY and other state leaders on important issues, and regarding national actions and announcements, I wanted to provide you with some quick updates:

**DSI and Compression Distribution:** While the dates for distribution are not yet finalized, at this time we anticipate that distribution of both the 2020 DSI and salary compression pools will occur no later than March 2021, and possibly as early as February. It depends on how quickly analysis can be done. We will provide you with updated information on this as soon as we have it. Regardless of date of payment, both salary compression adjustments and DSI will be retroactive to July or September depending on a member's obligation. **But, the money -- added to base salaries -- is coming!**

**UUP/NYS Telecommuting Agreement:** The UUP/NYS Telecommuting Agreement has been extended through April 2, 2021. We will share more information as it is available, but we continue to fight for its liberal interpretation.

**Federal Aid Package:** As you know, Congress passed a new pandemic relief bill. While we acknowledge that the bill does not include everything we were hoping for, we are relieved to see some key funding included. The funding package includes the Education Stabilization Fund which delivers \$5.8 billion to New York's educational institutions, **including \$1.4 billion for higher education**. The package also includes \$1.6 billion to New York for vaccine, testing, tracing, and flexible local health funding. Also included is \$1 billion in support for hospitals, mental health, community health centers and providers. I am optimistic that this money will be used to help out where our members are being taxed severely right now thanks to a surge in COVID patients -- most notably at Upstate. UUP released a statement on the federal aid package that can be found [here](#).

We are grateful to Senator Schumer for leading the way on behalf of New York and higher education. Without his tireless efforts, this relief bill would not have happened. He also worked effectively with Senator Gillibrand and a bipartisan congressional delegation in standing up for our members' work at colleges and university centers, as well as the crucial services at SUNY's public hospitals by getting this COVID-19 relief package through a hostile Senate.

However, as our friends in Congress have said, a great deal of work remains to be done. Without budget relief for states and local governments, the crises facing New York and every other state will grow worse. Therefore, right now, it is more important than ever to press New York's leaders for an investment in SUNY's institutions through necessary revenue raisers in the state budget. More information on how to join us in this work will be released soon.

**New Secretary of Education:** President-elect Biden is expected to nominate Miguel A. Cardona, Connecticut's education commissioner, to be his Secretary of Education. Prior to serving as education commissioner, Cardona was an elementary school teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Educational Leadership. UUP will be releasing a statement on Dr. Cardona's nomination once it's official.

Please share this information with your colleagues. Thank you for all those who have taken part in our continuing advocacy efforts. The work never ends, but we are succeeding in these efforts. Crucial work remains and I hope you will join me as we fight for a New York that recognizes our public service with resources provided by those most able to pay. The times demand it; justice requires it.

All the best to all of you and yours for the holiday season. Stay well and stay safe.

In solidarity,  
Fred

# THE LATEST EDITION OF THE UUP VOICE

Please [click here](#) to read the UUP Voice

## UUP: Use SUNY students, staff, campuses to speed up vaccinations

The State University of New York—its students, faculty and staff and facilities—should be immediately used to rapidly administer the millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses New Yorkers will need to be protected from the pandemic ravaging the U.S.

Frederick E. Kowal, president of United University Professions, which represents more than 37,000 SUNY employees at SUNY's four-year campuses, said that SUNY medical students and medical residents could work together to form volunteer SUNY "Vaccination Brigades."

SUNY students studying to become pharmacists, ophthalmologists, emergency medical technicians, nurses, veterinarians and other medical professionals would also be encouraged to volunteer for the brigades. The student-led brigades would be part of the teams that would deliver vaccinations at SUNY's 64 campuses.

"SUNY can be a major player in ramping up vaccinations across the state," said Kowal, who leads America's largest higher education union. "We've got thousands of medical and pre-med students who can help with vaccinations, and thousands of non-medical students who could assist with support."

"The situation is changing rapidly and the numbers of those with COVID-19 are rising across the state," he continued. "Experts are calling for aggressive action and we couldn't agree more."

Kowal pointed to Dr. Peter Hotez, a vaccine expert at Houston's Baylor College of Medicine, who told Politico.com that the only way to make President-elect Joe Biden's pledge to deliver 100 million vaccination doses in his first 100 days in office is to start vaccinating as many people as possible—in tents in outdoor sports stadiums or places with ample parking.

In a Jan. 3 op-ed in The Washington Post, Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University's School of Public Health, calls for the delay of the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in favor of vaccinating as many people as possible to save lives. Jha said he expects the more contagious strain of coronavirus, first detected in the U.K. and now in the U.S., will become the dominant strain of the virus in this country over the next few months.

"We need to get as many vaccinations into as many arms as possible as quickly as possible," Kowal said. "The pandemic is raging and the more contagious variant of coronavirus is in New York. We need to take immediate action. From infrastructure to people power, SUNY has many elements already in place to rapidly assemble and deploy vaccination brigades to inoculate as many people as possible."

SUNY has about 8,500 students in medical schools and medical programs at SUNY's academic medical centers and SUNY's College of Optometry. This total does not include students in SUNY veterinary, dentistry and nursing programs.

Also, volunteer opportunities would be available for thousands of non-medical students to help with the massive undertaking of distributing and tracking the vaccine doses. Students in SUNY's emergency medicine programs—training to become paramedics and EMTs—could be asked to transport people to and from vaccination sites.

Kowal said SUNY facilities—gymnasiums, lecture halls, athletic fields, and parking lots—could easily be used as staging areas to vaccinate thousands of people each day.

Setting up vaccination clinics at rural campuses such as Potsdam, Canton, Alfred and Cortland could be instrumental in getting the vaccine to people in outlying areas. SUNY's university centers in Albany, Binghamton and Stony Brook; and downtown and metro-area campuses—in places like Syracuse, Plattsburgh, and Farmingdale—are situated near underserved and underrepresented communities and could serve as vaccination centers for those populations.

"This is a Herculean task and SUNY students, faculty, staff and facilities can and should be utilized to accomplish it," he said.

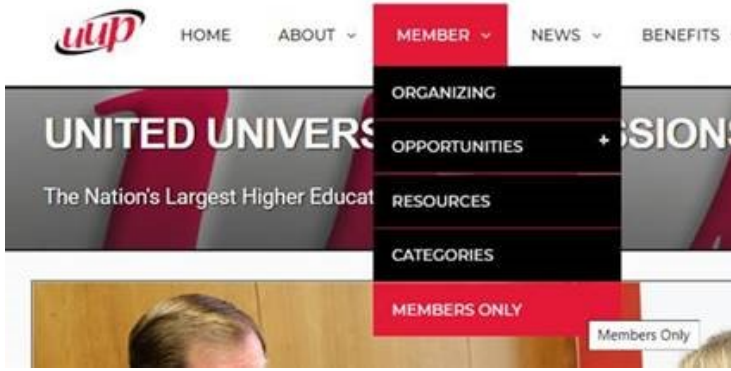
Kowal suggested that students who volunteer for the SUNY vaccination brigades should receive recognition for their efforts—which could range from course credit to reducing or even eliminating tuition costs for a semester or a year.

"These students will be going to war and they should be rewarded for it," said Kowal. "Getting these vaccinations into the arms of New Yorkers is literally a matter of life and death. And much like returning GIs benefited from Franklin Delano Roosevelt's groundbreaking GI Bill, these students should have their educations paid for by the state's residents as we will all be safer because of their efforts."

Kowal said that UUP looks forward to working with the governor's office and SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras to advance the vaccination brigades initiative.

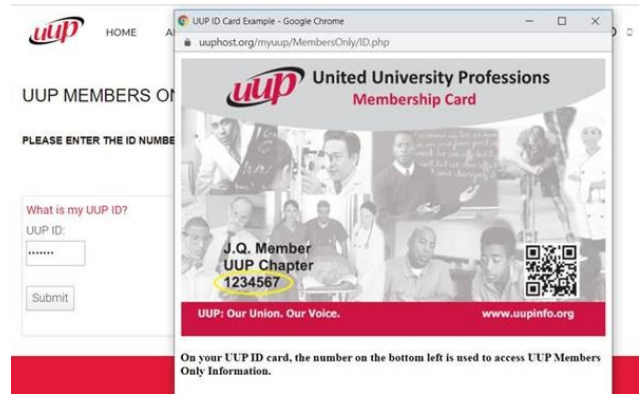
*UUP is the nation's largest higher education union, with more than 42,000 academic and professional faculty and retirees. UUP members work at 29 New York state-operated campuses, including SUNY's public teaching hospitals and health science centers in Brooklyn, Long Island and Syracuse. It is an affiliate of NYSUT, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the AFL-CIO.*

# ACCESSING THE MEMBERS ONLY PORTION OF [UUPINFO.ORG](http://UUPINFO.ORG)



To log into this site you would choose “Members Only” from the “Member” drop down:

You then enter the 7 digit member number. This can be found on your UUP or NYSUT membership card:



**PLEASE SELECT YOUR CAMPUS AND ENTER YOUR 5 DIGIT DEPARTMENT ID ORDER TO CONTINUE.**

What is my Department ID?

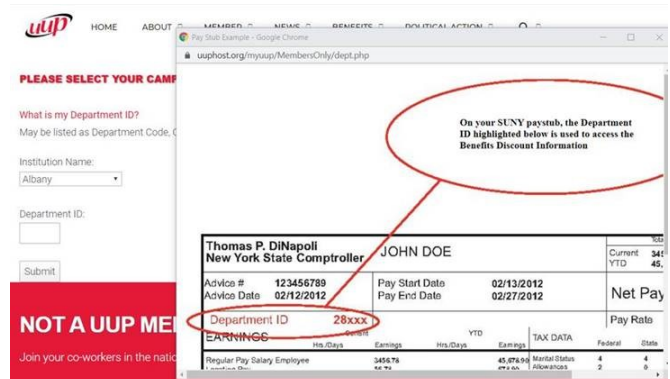
May be listed as Department Code, Campus Code, or Agency Code on electronic payroll records.

Institution Name:

Albany

Next, you choose your institution name from the dropdown listing. If you are a retiree, you will see UUP Retiree in the listing as well.

Finally, you enter your 5 digit Department ID. If you do not know your department ID you can find it on your paystub or by contacting your chapter office.



## UPDATED UUP Q&A INFORMATION

An updated version of the UUP COVID-19 Q&A is now available on the COVID-19 Resource Page. Check it out by clicking the image to the right or by [clicking here](#). You will find for information a lot of important information here, so please take a moment to look it all over.



# SENTINEL ARTICLES

UUP is looking for members to contribute content for The Sentinel and for future UUP-date! issues.

Please submit articles, recipes and/or pictures to Kerry at [oneuup@oneonta.edu](mailto:oneuup@oneonta.edu)



## MEMBERS ONLY BENEFITS



BJ's offers UUP members discounted rates for new and renewing membership. If you need a BJ's Wholesale Club membership renewal form please email [oneuup@oneonta.edu](mailto:oneuup@oneonta.edu) and note if this is for a new BJ's membership or a renewal. This is a *members only* benefit.



## Not a UUP Member Yet?

Join your co-workers in the nation's largest higher education union



### TOGETHER WE ARE:



32

CHAPTERS



37000+

MEMBERS



500+

JOB TITLES



1

VOICE

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