

UUP Chapter Meeting Notes

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 2:30 PM: Le Café, Morris Complex

By Bill Simons, Secretary and Gary Wickham, Officer for Contingents

Attendees: 22 (17 in-person; 5 Teams)

In-person: Joe Baldwin, David Banks, Lydia Brassard, Diane Carleton, Rob Compton, Charlene Deno, McKenzie Deno, Teresa DeSantis, Rachel Germain, Achim Koeddermann, Joshua Nelson, Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Bill Simons, Kaleb Smith, Rui Tan, Gary Wickham

Teams: Shirley Clark, Penina Kamina, Geoff O'Shea, Chris Sielaff, Ed Wesnofske

I. The Meeting came to order at 2:35 PM.

II. Welcome: President Rob Compton

A. Rob thanked Organizers David Banks and Lydia Brassard for their membership-building endeavors earlier in the day and supported engagement with the continuing campaign.

III. On behalf of the Chapter, Rob expressed condolences at the recent, untimely, and tragic passing of our colleague Dr. Timothy Newton of the Music Department.

IV. Report on Recognition of Ed Wesnofske at the recent Rochester Delegate Assembly:
Secretary Bill Simons

A. Oneonta sent a strong delegation to the Fall 2023 United University Professions (UUP) DA. in Rochester. Shirley Clark, Jeri Anne Jerminario, Penina Kamina, Achim Koeddermann, Bill Simons, Nancy Simons, Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, and Ed Wesnofske comprised the Oneonta delegation.

B. For our delegation, the highlight of the Fall Delegate Assembly (DA) was the honoring of Ed Wesnofske. (The UUP 50th anniversary commemorative bowl received by Ed was displayed.) Ed was President of the State University Federation of Teachers (SUFT), UUP's predecessor organization. A founder of UUP, he served as Vice President for Academics of State UUP from 1975-1977 as well as on numerous State UUP committees and task forces during a half-century of service. Back on campus, over the decades Ed held UUP Oneonta Chapter positions as President, Vice President for Academics, Treasurer, and current Academic Delegate. Ed is still at the center of events, making good trouble, fighting for an expansion of the franchise at a meeting of the committee considering the direct election of State UUP officers. Somehow Ed was not called up to the stage at the DA, and Shirley, the ranking UUP Oneonta officer in the room, said "not on my watch" and insisted on correction of the oversight before the honor court ended. When Ed was finally called up, the UUP Oneonta table rose in unison to send Ed down the aisle with a sustained standing ovation. Ed held the hall rapt recounting the tough fight to birth UUP and the relevance of that battle for today.

C. Attending virtually, Ed spoke in response to the award. He thanked and recognized the many UUP Oneonta activists, past and present, who made this a great chapter. He said that he did not regard the award as his alone but to the Oneonta Chapter and its proud history, strong present, and great future potential.

- V. Rob commented on the good mix of new attendees and veterans present in the room. Noting that not everyone in the room knew one another, Rob requested that the 22 UUP loyalists in the room — officers, rank-and-file members, and professional staff— introduce themselves and say a few words about their background. Everyone present participated in what proved a good bonding experience.
- VI. Upcoming Events: Officer for Retirees and Special Events: Loraine Tyler
- A. Loraine discussed past and upcoming events and initiatives for UUP retirees.
 - B. Several upcoming meetings received notice, including:
 - (1) Labor Management: Thursday, October 26th 2 PM, Location TBA.
 - (2) Coffee Hour: Thursday, October 26, 3 PM, Location TBA.
 - (3) Executive Board Meeting: Thursday November 2, IRC B-19.
- VII. Our dedicated UUP Oneonta CWA assistant Teresa DeSantis printed and distributing copies of our first Sentinel newsletter from 1987. The 1987 Sentinel demonstrated the continuum between our past and the present. Current leaders, including Loraine Tyler and Joe Baldwin, were, as noted in the initial issue of The Sentinel, already Chapter leaders back in 1987.
- VIII. As previously announced and coordinated, Secretary Bill Simons needed to leave the Chapter meeting at this juncture (2:55 PM) for CCAL. At this point, as planned, Officer of Contingents Gary Wickham took over note taking.
- IX. Rob provided an overview/ update on the Dean of Graduate Studies Dean search.
- A. He also gave updates on the Lecturer MOU, the Adjunct promotion MOU, RTP, and compensation.
- X. LRS Chris Sielaff elaborated on the scope and attributes of his position as NYSUT Labor Relations Specialists assigned to UUP.
- XI. Officer Penina Kamina explained her activities and goals advancing and protecting Affirmative Action.
- XII. Grievance Officer Geoff O’Shea discussed the responsibilities of his office and the protocols surrounding his office.
- XIII. Vice President for Professionals Shirley Clark discussed the Professional Concerns Committee.
- XIV. Treasurer Rich Tyler explained the UUP budget process. He stated that the Chapter Finance Committee will engage its cumulative work within a February/March timeframe.
- XV. President Rob Compton commented on several aspects of the wide-ranging work and responsibilities of the Chapter President.

- XVI. President Rob Compton reintroduced Organizers Dave Banks and Lydia Brassard. Both of them discussed their roles and responsibilities.
- XVII. Ed Wesnofske, a member of the State UUP Direct Voting Committee, described how direct voting for State Officers would function, if implemented. The direct voting initiative began with resolutions by the Oneonta Chapter.
- XVIII. A motion to implement Part II of the UUP Survey of campus life on senior administration and to spend up to \$150 on software was moved by Officer for Retirees Loraine Tyler and seconded by Academic Delegate Achim Koeddermann. After discussion, the motion, by voice vote, was approved unanimously.
- XIX. CWA Assistant Teresa DeSantis explained ongoing improvements and updates to bring clarity and accessibility to the Chapter website.
- XX. Officer for Contingents Gary Wickham explained that F/T lecturers are still not in receipt of 3-year contracts based on the sample conducted by Vice President for Academics Mark Ferrara and himself.
- XXI. President Rob Compton provided an update on Labor-Management meeting discussions.
- XXII. Discussion on salary compression and impact on morale ensued.
- XXIII. President Rob Compton stated that SUNY Oneonta President Cardelle seeks training days to be conducted outside of normal days, possibly over semester break. UUP will craft a response.
- XXIV. There was also discussion of Professional compensatory time. There are reports of UUP professional employee difficulties with supervisors. However, Vice President for Professionals Shirley Clark posited whether this has been a problem so far. The situation will be monitored.
- XXV. Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff mentioned issues with grant funded term positions and difficulty getting longer term appointments.
- XXVI. There was also discussion concerning state job titles vs local job titles. UUP Oneonta will continue examination, discussion, and engagement of this issue.
- XXVII. Academic Delegate Achim Koeddermann offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rich Tyler. The meeting adjourned after 3:30 PM.