

## **UUP Oneonta Chapter Meeting Summary: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 Noon, Virtual**

*By Bill Simons, Secretary*

**Present (Virtual):** Aleksandra Andreic, Reece Allen, Scott Barton, Julia Baxter, Ed Beck, Anthony Biltucci, Suzanne Black, Antoine Blanc, Iain Byrne, Robert Compton, Paul Christofel, Summer Cunningham, James D'Amico, Barbara Durkin, Christine Edwards, Kathleen Feit, Mark Ferrara, Jill Fielhaber, Bill Harclerod, Rebecca Harrington, Roger Hecht, Ryan Hooper, Emmon Johnson, Chris Keegan, Michael Koch, Achim Koeddermann, Bailey Kreager, J Lentner, Ho Hon Leung, Geoff O'Shea, Kerry Osterwald, Kelly Pinter, Carmen Pizzuto, Madeleigh Place, Audrey Porsche, Bill Simons, Nancy Simons, Sarah Simpson, Gina Solanao, Maximillian Soule-Oneto, Suzanne Swantak--Furman, Elizabeth Tucker, Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Matthew Unangst, Heather Van Zile, Lori Weinki, Ed Wesnofske, Jennifer Withington,

1. President Rob Compton called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. Rob welcomed attendees and thanked them for their dedication to the College and the union

2. Announcement: To help the people of Ukraine, the statewide union encourages members and the general public to consider donations to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/disaster-relief/make-a-donation>.

The union's 501(c)3 charitable organization. NYSUT will be partnering with relief agencies to make sure that the funds collected get to the people in areas that are most in need due to this humanitarian crisis.

3. Secretary Bill Simons moved the following resolution:

**RESOLVED, The Oneonta Chapter of United University Professions (UUP), in the spirit of democratic vitality and unity for UUP statewide, endorses the concept of the direct election of the Officers of Statewide UUP by its membership and further recommends:**

**(1) engagement of support from UUP Chapters elsewhere; and  
(2) promotion of action by the Statewide UUP Delegate Assembly and Executive Board to achieve enfranchisement of UUP members to choose their Statewide Officers.**

A. Academic Delegates Ed Wesnofske and Loraine Tyler seconded the resolution.

B. summary of discussion of the resolution

**(i) arguments against the resolution:**

- a. delegates are more likely to be knowledgeable about State candidates than rank- and-file members
- b. rank-and file members are too busy to familiarize themselves with candidates
- c. the cost of direct elections is unknown
- d. direct voting breaks with tradition
- e. the nomination process is more important than the election process

**(ii) arguments for direct voting:**

- (a) UUP must move from the service union model to the activist union model
- (b) the Janus decision necessitates engaging new hires with the franchise
- (c) UUP is democratic union and the vote is an essential defining attribute of a democracy
- (d) the Delegate Assembly spends far too much time on elections and too little on issues
- (e) the technology now exists to conduct accessible, cost-effective elections
- (f) direct voting will foster competition and encourage union activism
- (g) UUP has experience in direct voting as evidenced by the contract ratification process and retiree elections
- (h) under the current UUP election process, numbers of Chapter officers receive more votes than State officers
- (i) direct elections will increase the political capital of State officers within the union and outside the union
- (j) election for State officers could appear on the same ballot used for the election of Chapter officers
- (k) other democratic organizations have moved of late to direct voting, including the United Auto Workers (UAW)
- (l) the UUP Oneonta Executive Board previously endorsed this resolution, and this resolution has received significant prior discussion in The Sentinel, UUP-date, the Chapter list serve, and other forums
- (m) Direct election of State leaders will grow membership, foster activism, bring back issue-oriented caucuses and augur the return of competitive campaigns. Let's replace torpid, largely uncontested, ceremonial elections with spirited contests that educate and motivate the membership. When people have skin in the game, they come forward to participate.

C. The vote to close discussion of the resolution was: 33 yes; 2 no; 2 abstain

D. The vote to approve the resolution was 31 for; 5 no; 1 abstain.

4. Vice President for Professionals J Lentner provided a report that included attention to the low rate of Performance Program compliance. J stated that UUP must move Management to hold more Performance Program training

5. Vice President for Academics Mark Ferrara provided a report that, amongst other matters, cited frustration in moving Management to complete SPI negotiations

6. President Rob Compton emphasized that adjunct faculty do not need to compete Faculty Activities Reports (FAR) as a normative expectation except in situations required by promotion and awards

7. Rob provided an in-depth presentation about the imminent UUP survey, noting:

A. Every five years or so, UUP Oneonta conducts a survey on the Quality of Professional Live and Administrative Assessment. The last survey was in 2016 and close to 50% of the UUP membership participated in it.

B. Part I of the survey: Quality of Professional Life is in the process of dissemination to the

UUP membership

C. Part II of the survey: Part II. Administrative Assessment will take place in the fall 2022 semester