



The Paper Chase: Faculty Activities Report

By Bill Simons, Vice President for Academics

At times, Labor-Management meetings are intense. Despite mutual respect and cordiality, the Administration and the Union do not always agree. On a number of issues, however, the Oneonta chapter of UUP and the College Administration share common ground. For example, UUP's request that special caution be taken with herbicide spraying, especially around Milne Library, encountered immediate support. Likewise, Management responded positively to UUP's proposal to revise a Faculty Activities Report that had grown unwieldy in recent years. The Administration worked cooperatively with us to create a new version of the Faculty Activities Report.

Compare the 2001 and 2002 Faculty Activities Reports. Unnecessary components of the former were deleted. Make no mistake: the 2002 version is significantly briefer and less intimidating. The old injunction to "Note: committee contributions should include evidence of effective contributions, not simply membership" has disappeared, and thus the prospect of timing and grading comments in meetings has receded. Last year's Report intoned, "supplementary materials attached must include student evaluations of teaching effectiveness..." In a more collegial spirit, the 2002 form notes, "Supplementary materials are encouraged, and may include student evaluations of teaching effectiveness..." Language matters, and "May" is preferable to "Must." Even casual scrutiny of the two documents will reveal meaningful changes in content and tone.

As *Dilbert* reminds us, gratuitous mandates sap creativity and elicit cynicism in the workplace. Vigilance is needed against the proliferating paper chase of reports, evaluations, and assessments. As inappropriate corporate models are imposed on academia, paper empires menace intellectual

vitality on American campuses. The revision and reduction of the Faculty Activities Report is a modest but significant victory for Labor and Management at the College at Oneonta.

The End is Near

Tuesday, May 14, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Vines Restaurant

Our end of the year celebration will be held at the new Vines Restaurant on Main street in Oneonta. Loraine Tyler has been working hard to ensure the buffet style gathering will be memorable. To celebrate in the atmosphere of our newest establishment for dining and in the shadow of downtown's newest addition to lodging, we have a few things in store for you. The chamber-jazz string trio "from the bridge" will be playing music as you weave your way around the buffet table and visit with your colleagues. You can stroll out into the courtyard and enjoy the evening as the music wafts out. While you are eating and mingling, you could take advantage of the tours provided to us by the Clarion Hotel of their new facility. You can sit and chat, or mingle in the courtyard, weather permitting. We will have black and white artist renderings of the proposed Performing Arts and Conference Center for you to view. This Center, when finished, will be visible from the courtyard outside. Come celebrate the end of the year, and downtown Oneonta. Those of you that have been around for a while have seen this section of downtown Oneonta undergo a great transformation. We have invited past Mayors and the present Mayor of Oneonta to join us as we enjoy our downtown community. We hope you will be part of this end of the year celebration. RSVP 436-2135

A Life Insurance Policy for You

The basic premise of life insurance is simple - your beneficiary receives a death benefit when you die. Then why are there so many kinds of life insurance? The reason is because people use it differently for various circumstances. New York State United Teachers Member Benefits offers four distinct life insurance policies.

Term Life Insurance is purchased for a specific period of time, or a "term." Benefits are paid to a beneficiary only when the insured dies within the specified period. Coverage is guaranteed renewable to age 70. The coverage amount reduces by 50 percent at age 65. Applicants must be under age 65 and can apply for up to \$500,000 in coverage. Financial experts consider Term to be the most economical type of life insurance because it is "pure" insurance. In addition to providing a death benefit to beneficiaries, term life may be your best value as a means of insuring your mortgage.

Senior Term Life Insurance is designed for people between the ages of 65 and 84. Coverage amounts are lower than the Term Life Insurance plan, as financial obligations are generally lower in later years. Depending on age at issue, applicants may choose up to \$30,000 in coverage. Coverage decreases with age and ends at age 85.

If you are looking for a cash value plan, NYSUT offers two distinct options. Both are based on universal life insurance structures. **NYSUT Variable Universal Life Insurance** is "permanent" insurance; it contains both insurance and cash value accumulation. You can choose to invest your cash value in fixed and/or variable investment options. You have premium payment flexibility. Death benefits are level or increasing. At age 100, the life insurance coverage ends and you receive the account value. Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 80. The minimum face value amount offered is \$50,000; the maximum is \$500,000. Loans are available.

If you prefer not having to make investment choices, the **NYSUT WrapPlan[®] Term Life**

Coordination Program may be an option for you. This product "wraps" around existing term life insurance coverage to restore full coverage when term life insurance decreases or terminates. While there are no investment options, guaranteed interest rates provide cash accumulation. At age 95, the life insurance coverage ends and you receive the account value. Applicants must be age 65 or under and can apply for up to \$300,000. Loans are available.

For more information, call NYSUT Member Benefits at 1-800-626-8101, e-mail benefits@nysutmail.org, or visit the Web site www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

