

UUP Oneonta Executive Board Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, October 2, 2024, Noon, Le Café

Present: (17)

Le Cafe: (13) Shirley Clark, Teresa DeSantis, Jeri Anne Jerminario, Penina Kamina, Achim Koeddermann, Mike McAvoy, Chris Sielaff, Bill Simons, Nancy Simons, Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Matt Unangst, and Gary Wickham

Zoom: (4) Mark Ferrara, Melissa Lavin, Geoff O’Shea, and Ed Wesnofske

I. President Shirley Clark called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM.

A. Executive Board members were thanked for their contributions, dedication, and Commitment.

II. *UUP-date!* articles

A. A motion was made, seconded, and discussed to publish articles by George Hovis and Ed Wesnofske *in UUP-date!*

B. passed by a vote of 8-5.

III. President’s Report: Shirley Clark (The oral report was supplemented by a detailed written report that was distributed.)

A. **Project 2025**

Chapter Presidents across SUNY were briefed on the contents of Project 2025. It is also important for the community to be aware of what Project 2025 entails.

Project 2025 is a political initiative published by the conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation. It recommends abolishing the Department of Education (DOE), with its programs either transferred or terminated. The initiative proposes reclassifying tens of thousands of federal civil service workers as political appointees to replace them with individuals loyal to the president.

Funding for climate research would be cut, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would lose some of its independence, including being prohibited from funding research with embryonic stem cells or using quotas to promote equal participation by women.

Project 2025 seeks to cut Medicare and Medicaid and urges the government to explicitly reject abortion as healthcare. It proposes criminalizing pornography, removing legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and terminating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and affirmative action by having the DOJ prosecute "anti-white racism." The project recommends the arrest, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants living in the country.

It would eliminate funding for public schools, including initiatives to feed children in high-need areas, and divert these funds to wealthy individuals and charter schools.

B. **2024 Presidential Election**

The 2024 Presidential Election indeed carries significant weight, with potential implications for various critical issues such as climate change, healthcare, social justice, and the economy.

It’s vital for everyone to participate in the electoral process, as each vote contributes to shaping the future of the country. Engaging in discussions about candidates’ policies and

their impacts can help individuals make informed choices. Additionally, encouraging friends and family to vote can amplify this collective effort. Ultimately, voting is not just a right but a responsibility, and making our voices heard is crucial in a democratic society.

C. **Fall 2024 Delegate Assembly**

The Oneonta Chapter was well represented at the Fall 2024 Delegate Assembly. Oneonta had 7 Academic Delegates and 2 Professional Delegates attend.

When ballots are distributed this January we are looking for more professional delegates and hope that folks will consider this professional opportunity.

D. **UUP Campus Equity Week**

Part-time and full-time contingent academic and professional faculty have become a vital and permanent part of the faculty in public higher education and the United University Professions (UUP) bargaining unit. They deserve recognition, inclusion, equitable treatment, consideration, and all due process rights afforded to full-time members. Therefore, it has been resolved that UUP recognizes the final week in October as Campus Equity Week.

The Oneonta Chapter successfully secured health benefits for an adjunct professor who had been repeatedly denied, despite clear eligibility criteria.

E. **3/3 Teaching Load for Tenured Faculty**

The September 18th Oneonta UUP session on the 3/3 Teaching Load was a huge success and our faculty is supporting this effort. Even though President Clark couldn't attend, Mark Ferrara and Melissa Levin were able to facilitate the discussion effectively and their efforts played a significant role in creating a positive atmosphere for this strategic opportunity for the University of Oneonta.

By embracing a 3/3 Teaching Load, Oneonta can position itself to cultivate an environment of academic excellence, innovation, and student success. This model prioritizes quality over quantity, ultimately benefiting faculty, students, and the institution. Investing in a balanced teaching load is a strategic move toward enhancing the educational mission and sustaining a vibrant academic community.

UUP will be pursuing this model with management at our upcoming compensation meetings.

F. **Health and Housing Survey**

Many retirees report not having received the Health and Housing Survey. Their concern will be addressed at today's Labor-Management Meeting.

IV. Vice President for Academics Report: Mark Ferrara

- A. The campaign for a normative 3-3 teaching load for fulltime faculty remains a high priority and has advanced on several fronts. A special issue of *The Sentinel* devoted to this issue contained a number of excellent articles. The September 18, 2024, Chapter meeting (Noon – 1pm – Le Café, Morris Complex) focused on the centrality of the 3-3 load to instruction at SUNY Oneonta, attracted a large audience, and elicited participant comments strongly supported the 3-3 initiative. And an on-line petition supporting the 3-3 initiative has already received more than 100 signature endorsements. The preceding will provide an important component of today's Labor-Management meeting.
- B. Special acknowledgment was given to Melissa Lavin for her collaboration with Mark on the 3-3 campaign.

- V. Vice President for Professionals Report
 - A. The position of Vice President for Professionals remains unfilled.
 - B. Shirley continues to convene the Professional Concerns Committee.

- VI. Treasurer's Monthly Report: Rich Tyler
 - A. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - B. The Treasurer's Report was discussed.
 - C. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.
 - D. The Treasurer was asked to inquire of State UUP its willingness to once again make available to members baseball-style UUP hats and to identify any obstacles to that request and to report back the reply.

- VII. Secretary's Report: Bill Simons
 - A. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Secretary's Minutes of the September 4, 2024, Executive Board meeting.
 - B. The Secretary's minutes were discussed.
 - C. The Secretary's minutes were approved unanimously.
 - D. The Secretary observed that UUP Oneonta has regained its momentum, evidenced by the initiatives and achievements of several officers, Executive Board members, and activists.
 - E. *Saturday's Bread* community kitchen. UUP Oneonta will staff *Saturday's Bread* community kitchen on November 9, 2024. The First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, will provide the setting; however, the event is non-sectarian. Setting up, cooking, serving, greeting guests, and cleaning up, our UUP Oneonta volunteers will work from 9 AM to 2 PM. This chapter solidarity event contributes to the UUP mission of community service. For questions and to sign up, email Bill at William.Simons@Oneonta.Edu

- VIII. Officer for Contingents Report: Gary Wickham
 - A. Efforts on behalf of adjunct teaching faculty member improperly denied benefits were successfully redressed after considerable effort. The role of LRS Chris Sielaff was acknowledged. The adjunct faculty member is now receiving the benefits due.

- IX. Officer for Retirees Report: Loraine Tyler
 - A. Attention was drawn to the Oneonta/Delhi Retiree Brunch: Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 11:30 AM @ Delhi.
 - B. UUP will host a Social Hour on Wednesday, October 23rd, 2-3:30 PM at Milne Library 102 A. No RSVP is required.

- X. Officer for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Report: Penina Kamina
 - A. Given the success of the DEI Committee sponsorship of the Thursday, September 12, 2024, *Appreciating Diversity* luncheon presentation, a Spring program will follow.
 - B. At the State and Chapter levels, diversity is the UUP theme of the year. UUP is committed to ratcheting up diversity at all levels.
 - C. As a member of several State UUP committees, Penina discussed what those entities are doing and still need to do to encourage diversity.

- XI. Membership Development Officer: Matt Unangst
 - A. A New Member Mingle, with light refreshments, will take place on Tuesday, October 15th, 4-6 PM, @ Le Café. No RSVP is required.
 - B. Domenic Licata of the University at Buffalo, our new Regional Membership Specialist, will work with UUP Oneonta on several initiatives. Several Chapter officers know Domenic from the Delegate Assembly and the NYSUT RA.
 - C. Concern was raised via a question about the 51% of Chapter Part-Time UUP membership, as of August 13, 2024, compared to the State UUP aggregate figure of 66%.
 - D. Matt continues to monitor UUP access and postings on SUNY Oneonta bulletin boards.
 - E. Ideas about a Membership Committee and related website were raised.

- XII. "Gripe and Grievance" Workshop
 - A. NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff will present a "Gripe and Grievance" Workshop on October 22, 12- 1 PM, at The Grille, Morris Complex.
 - B. An RSVP is required.

- XIII. Bylaws Committee: Shirley Clark
 - A. A committee to update the existing Chapter bylaws will be formed, consisting of Shirley, Rich Tyler, and Mike McAvoy. It will prepare a draft for consideration by the Executive Board.

- XIV. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 12:33 pm.

Submitted by William Simons, Secretary