

# uup-date!

**March 14, 2025**



**UUP Oneonta at the NYS legislature: left to right, Shirley Clark, Anthony Nichols, Jessie Simpauco, Senator Shelley Mayer, Ethan Fox, Ed Wesnofske, and Penina Kamina**

**Activism is Not A Spectator Sport:**  
**Enlisting in the Campaign for Democracy on Campus and in Albany**

*by Bill Simons, Secretary and Academic Delegate*

The American democracy is at a critical passage. Ideological loyalty substitutes for patriotism. Volume and threat replace truth. Chainsaw cuts threaten basic needs. Bullying passes for diplomacy. Every sector of the national infrastructure — defense, justice, treasury, trade,

communication, health, energy, environment — faces the specter of enervation and politicization. Education is not immune. From pre-school to graduation programs, an uncertain future awaits.

On campuses across the nation, aggressive rhetoric and quixotic policies confront research grants and student aid. Freedom of speech in and out of the classroom encounters restriction. Demographic and curricular diversity is under attack.

Labor unions contributed to the emergence of an America that promotes freedom at home and abroad. Now, it is time to protect those liberties. Education unions will respond to that summons. State UUP and its chapters are mobilizing. True to its history, UUP Oneonta has once again enlisted on the side of the native decencies.

To heighten union visibility and the issues of the time, Chapter activists staffed a UUP informational table in the lobby of IRC throughout much of the afternoon on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. In the conversations that ensued, leaders explained that this is but the beginning.



**First summons: left to right Secretary Bill Simons, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpaucio, President Shirley Clark, & Chapter Assistant Teresa DeSantis on campus**

On Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, UUP Oneonta sent one of the largest Chapter delegations to Albany to engage members of the New York State Senate and Assembly

in the union's *A Fair Deal for Public Higher Education*. President Shirley Clark, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco, Secretary Bill Simons, UUP founder and Delegate Ed Wesnofske, DEI Officer and Delegate Penina Kamina, Professional Committeeperson Anthony Nichols, and Professional Committeeperson Ethan Fox comprised the seven strong in the Oneonta legislative contingent. In order to attend, our professionals had to charge Albany days against their leave time. Well prepared on the issues, the Oneonta activists met with a number of legislators and their senior staff.

In solidarity with UUPers from across New York State, the Oneonta contingent made a strong case for necessary funding for SUNY campuses, particularly those operating at a deficit. The public teaching hospitals received needed attention from UUP advocates. And the necessity of growing the Educational Opportunity Program also found emphasis during visits with legislators. Although the legislators we met with were largely supportive, the battle of the budget is far from over, and we will be back.

Activism is not a spectator sport. Federal and state issues remain in play. Your participation is a necessity.

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## **UUP Executive Board Training: February 26, 2025**

*by Bill Simons, Secretary and Academic Delegate*



Chris Sielaff, NYSUT/UUP Labor Relations Specialist

Chris Sielaff, NYSUT/UUP Labor Relations Specialist, carries a critical and demanding load, and he does it well. With assignment to UUP at Binghamton, Delhi, Cortland, and Oneonta, Chris' responsibilities encompass member representation, counsel to Chapter leaders, participation in Labor-Management sessions, and running vital workshops. His sleeves are always rolled up, figuratively that is.

Let's allow Chris to describe the LRS position in his own words. In an interview with the late UUP Binghamton leader Benita Roth, Chris stated:

*Primarily, I serve to protect the rights of UUP members and uphold the Agreement between UUP and the State of New York. The individual tasks that constitute this charge are numerous and diverse. I represent the interests of UUP, its Chapters and their members with management, whether they be from campus administration, SUNY or the State.*

*As need arises, I represent UUP members if they are subjected to disciplinary interrogations and disciplinary charges. If a UUP represented employee alleges their employer has violated the UUP Agreement, I assist them with grievance filing and procedures.*

*One of my favorite duties is to lead workshops and training on a range of topics from professional advancement to civility in the workplace. The best part of the job is interacting with UUP members and helping them solve their problems, small or large.*

On Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, after a long day of assisting Oneonta at a series of separate and distinct sessions — Chapter, pre-Labor-Management, Labor-Management, and post-Labor-Management meetings — Chris led an evening workshop for the UUP Oneonta Executive Board concerning *Leading with Union Values: Best Practices for Union Leaders*.

Prior to the start of the formal workshop, Chapter President Shirley Clark presented Ed Wesnofske an award acknowledging his 50+ years of excellent and dedicated service to UUP. A founder of the union, State UUP Vice President for Academics and contributing writer to its constitution, UUP Oneonta President, Vice President for Academics, Secretary, Treasurer, and

Delegate, and animating force behind numerous advocacy, protest, and committee initiatives, Ed has lived the history of UUP.



**Ed receives award from Shirley for his long and meritorious UUP service**

Chris' workshop was informative and interactive, engaging participants and building their union tools. A master teacher, the legacy of his rank-and-file classroom background, Chris alternately lectured, asked questions, and facilitated discussion. Eliciting comparison to *Weekend Update*'s Colin Jost, Chris leavened serious matter with occasional lighter moments, maintaining a high interest level throughout the night.



**Jessie, Mark Ferrara, Melissa Lavin, and Rich Tyler following intently**



**Penina Kamina responding to a flash of dry wit**

The workshop gifted topics both instrumental and motivational, ranging from Core Union Values, Issues, Challenges, the UUP Constitution, Member Workplace, Due Process, Just Cause, Multiple Roles, Advisement Responsibilities, Leaders' Self-Reflection, and Takeaways. Kudos to Chris and the collaborative UUP Oneonta Executive Board.

It was a night of leadership bonding and taking on new resources. UUP Oneonta is ready for the hard battles ahead.

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## **The SUNY Oneonta Health and Housing Survey: Time for Action**

*by Bill Simons, Secretary*

The calendar moves forward, and it is time for action. The SUNY Oneonta Health and Housing Survey, the product of major collaboration between the Union and Management, was completed months ago. The results are significant and need further dissemination to impact policy.

A brief background review is in order. At the UUP Labor-Management meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024, there was agreement across the table that a survey was needed to assess problematic aspects of health and housing in our region. The goal was to disseminate the survey to all SUNY Oneonta employees during the fall 2024 semester. In so far as possible, retirees were to be included, but it was acknowledged that contact information for some retirees might prove problematic. There was a Labor-Management consensus to share the results of the survey with policymakers and the media with the intent of improving conditions. The expressed hope was that the survey would also provide a template for other localities through activism by additional UUP chapters. Moreover, the joint survey could facilitate future Labor-Management collaboration.

UUP President Shirley Clark, Secretary Bill Simons, and Officer for Contingents Gary Wickham then designed the survey instrument that was presented to Management. Management committed to tabulating the survey.

At the UUP Labor-Management meeting on Friday, November 22, 2024, Management indicated that it would soon send UUP a general summary report of the Health and Housing Survey statistical and free response results. Management affirmed that it comfortable with public dissemination of the results by UUP, including with the rank-and-file union membership, State UUP leadership, and public policymakers. Management stated that it previously employed Health and Housing Survey results at Housing Summit sponsored by SUNY Oneonta, Hartwick College, the Community Foundation of Otsego County, and Springbrook. Management provided



UUP with a general summary report of the statistical and free response Health and Housing survey results on Monday, November 25, 2024.

During the Wednesday, December 4, 2024, UUP Oneonta Executive Board Meeting, the following represented the sentiments of attendees. Management merited recognition for its role in the distribution and tabulation of the survey as well as its go-ahead for public dissemination of the results by UUP. The survey results are significant and merit wide dissemination through UUP Oneonta members, State UUP leaders, policymakers, media, public panels, and others.

Chapter President Shirley Clark provides an orientation to the survey at [2-20-25-Shirley-Clark-UUP-Health-Housing-Summary-Complete.pdf](#) — with informational graphic provided by Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco. The Health and Housing Survey results themselves are posted at [https://www.oneontauup.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/12-2-24-FROM-SUNY-ONEONTA-PRESIDENT-AND-BILL-UUP-Survey-Summary\\_2024\\_11.25.2024.pdf](https://www.oneontauup.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/12-2-24-FROM-SUNY-ONEONTA-PRESIDENT-AND-BILL-UUP-Survey-Summary_2024_11.25.2024.pdf) — check out the survey for yourself and go beyond the statistics to read the free response as well.

The Chapter has provided State UUP and our local legislators, New York State Senator Peter Oberacker and Assemblyman Brian Miller, with copies of the survey. UUP Oneonta plans follow-up discussions with State UUP and the legislators concerning the Health and Housing Survey. Clearly, the Chapter doesn't want the Health and Housing Survey results to simply be filed away and fade into obsolescence. A number of health and housing survey participants report actionable items.

Further statistical analysis, discussion, debate, and addendums await. Post-survey discussions also suggest more primary physicians and specialists are needed in this region, and there is too much turnover and instability amongst area medical practitioners. Dental insurance is a source of widespread complaint. The survey doesn't address the homelessness in our midst.

The statistical results are essential, but it is the free responses that put a face on health and housing in our area. Hopefully, the excerpts will motivate you to read the free responses in full.

*- Too many student rental options in Oneonta! Not enough quality housing opportunities for young professionals and families.*

- *Wanted to be close to campus so could walk to work, as family has one car only. Most houses were too expensive, we were only able to buy the one we did because of 1) special 1st-time home buyer loan, 2) home was in need of much fixing up, and 3) home seller threatened with foreclosure if did not sell Asap - so able to get house at much better price. We were very very lucky. It took a lot of work and time to make the house nice though.*

- *I am disabled with MS, have a ground floor apartment with laundry, attached garage, other accommodations. I was lucky to win a spot in a housing lottery to secure this apartment. The entire experience - initial application and the annual recertification - is stressful and demeaning. Please do what you can to make housing accessible and affordable for all disabled seniors.*

- *My wife and I live in Meredith, 3 miles outside of Delhi. After UHS withdrew from Otsego County without warning, it took us 6 months to find a primary physician. For cataract surgery, we had to travel to the Albany area. One night, my wife and I received a phone call from a neighbor who was at Bassett/Delhi saying that he needed to go to Bassett-Cooperstown immediately and that no ambulance was available. So, Bassett-Delhi released the neighbor, who was in great pain, to transport him to Bassett-Cooperstown. We were not even asked to produce a driver's license before he was turned over to us for transportation for a harrowing night drive over back roads with our neighbor making horrible sounds of pain from the back seat.*

- *I really need to speak on the Delta Dental insurance and there's no field available to do so. If perchance someone actually reads this, you need to understand how terrible this insurance is. Finding a provider who accepts Delta is increasingly difficult. To make matters worse, Delta has recently rejected a claim of nearly a YEAR ago. That's right, the claim was entered on December 1, 2023 and I only now received a notice saying that I owe \$450 for that procedure. This procedure was supposed to be covered 90% by the insurance, and that is not what is now reflected on this notice. Either this is due to incompetency or due to malicious practices intentionally aimed at making it more challenging to fight the insurance company when a claim is denied: both are unforgiveable. I would opt out of this insurance and choose a new one if I*

*could, but since this insurance is paid for in part by my union dues, I have no ability to do so. This is simply unacceptable and I will make my grievances heard.*

The Health and Housing Survey was undertaken to promote positive change: let's commit ourselves to that.



**Financial Holds are a Last Resort**

*by J. Lentner, Director of Student Accounts*

When I became Director of the Student Accounts Office in 2016, one of my first actions involved the meal plan. At that time, student meal plans were not activated until their bills were satisfied. This meant many students could not eat in the dining hall or access Declining Dollars. The reason was simple. This was an effective tool to get bills paid, or, in many cases, Financial Aid arrangements completed.

I was uncomfortable with the idea that students were not being fed, or were jumping through hoops to get their three daily squares, essentially because of me. This was before the SUNY food security initiatives, before the Office of Student Care, and before the campus Food Pantry. I worked with OAS, who were happy to change the policy. Now, students arrive on campus, live in residence halls, and eat “all they care to” each day, regardless of the status of their semester bill.

SUNY Oneonta students don't pay their bills on time as a general rule. The fall semester bill is due in early August for undergrads, and on the first day of class for grad students. Typically, less than half our students meet these deadlines. Last November, we mailed out over 900 paper bills to students with balances over \$200. This included over 300 with balances over \$10,000. Most of these eventually get paid. Fewer than 10 students are de-registered each semester for an unpaid prior balance.

However, bills get paid in large part because we place holds. If a student has an unpaid balance in November that was due last August, getting the hold lifted may be the only reason to pay it. It is worth noting that most of the highest balances are unpaid because of outstanding

requirements for the Financial Aid Office. These are not students paying the balance out of pocket.

It's hard, thankless work to get students to pay their bills. When I started at Oneonta, this office had 14 employees. (We are now a staff of six, however, one position is vacant.) Thousands of students were called each summer and winter asking them to pay their bills. We mailed a paper bill to every student each semester. When the bill became electronic, we mailed an oversized postcard to every student. Austerity has slashed our staffing and our postal budgets.

We're left with holds. We recently increased the current balance hold threshold to \$1000. So, if you cannot or will not pay your \$999.00 bill, you can pre-register for the next semester anyway.

Mind you, I'm not complaining about this flexibility. Many students have unpaid bills through no fault of their own. Families endure hardship, state and federal aid programs have their own problems, and today's students are often ill-equipped to fend for themselves. My team is tasked with enforcing tuition and fee charges, while also enabling students to complete their degrees, despite the high cost. It requires a unique skill set. Students or families who reach out to us, are almost always accommodated. It is the ones we don't hear from, who don't pay, that we have trouble helping.

The Student Accounts Office does not function on an island. The University's receivable should be everyone's concern. A hold does not prevent, it delays, until such time that the student pays what they legitimately owe. If you know a student who needs help with a hold, please put them in contact with me or one of my dedicated team members and we will work together to help the student. That's what we do.

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## **Ed Wesnofske and the History of UUP: Part 2**

*by Nancy Simons, Academic Delegate*



**Ed at a UUP meeting, 1973**

The increasing turmoil over the Vietnam War and Civil Rights, campus protests, and the assassinations of iconic leaders in the United States led Ed to the realization that serious issues remained contested. The zeitgeist of that defining era led him to find a venue for activism in the union movement. When Ed arrived on campus in 1966, there was no union at SUNY Oneonta. In 1967, the Taylor Law (Public Employees Fair Employment Act) in New York State gave public employees the right to engage in collective bargaining, marking a pivotal year in union history. And some faculty began to seriously consider unionization.

In 1968, Ed, still in his mid-20s, became president of the Oneonta chapter of the State University Federation of Teachers (SUFT). He networked with chapter leaders on other campuses to build a union for academic employees. The union became a driving passion in Ed's life. On his own time and dime, he drove considerable distances to meet with faculty on other campuses who showed leadership potential. Ed became a presence at Plattsburgh, Potsdam, Canton, and Alfred, amongst other SUNY outposts. Agitating against complacency, Ed incessantly led the fight to organize.

Circa 1970, librarians and professionals had separate associations within SUNY. Many believed that librarians, professional staff, and academics had distinct working and negotiating priorities necessitating separate unions. Nonetheless, the Public Employee Relations Board

(PERB) decided on a single collective bargaining unit for academics, professionals, and librarians.

Based on Ed's recollections, culled from my interviews with him, let's explore the complex, acronym-filled, multi-player saga of union organization that unfolded. The story is byzantine in its shifting twists and turns. But it is our history.

Petitioning to be recognized and certified as the representative for academic employees, SUFT sought to convert collective bargaining from theory to practice. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) was oppositional. The buttoned-down, tie-and-jacket AAUP didn't believe academics belonged in unions. Idiosyncratic idealists, AAUP believed faculty should be free and independent of mind and spirit. AAUP excluded membership from individuals lacking academic rank.

Rejecting the concept of unionization, the Faculty Senate sought recognition as the voice and bargaining agent for New York State faculty. Opposition to unions centered the Faculty Senate campaigns. SUFT challenged the Faculty Senate, terming it an illegal participant because it was an employer dominated organization. PERB declared the Faculty Senate ineligible to become a bargaining agent. The Civil Service Employees (CSEA) Association also wanted to negotiate on behalf of all state employees.

The leaders of the Faculty Senate then approached the State University Professionals Association with the suggestion to form a group that would serve as a collective bargaining agent, resulting in SPA (Senate Professional Association). Ed recalled that the combination of the Faculty Senate and the State University Professionals Association to create SPA was like putting two things together that were a bit like oil and water.

SPA, the chief rival to SUFT, affiliated with the NEA (National Education Association) and emerged as the first legal representative for SUNY faculty and professionals for terms and conditions. CSEA remained the bargaining unit for civil service staff. SPA's initial achievement was securing permanent employment for academics and continuing appointments for professional staff. During the initial round of negotiations by SPA, faculty step increases were relinquished.

Originally SUFT was loosely allied with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Following the first collective bargaining round in 1970, which was not successful, there was a change in SUFT's state leadership, and Ed became the head of the Council of SUFT locals. The challenge then was how to gain traction. Most campus SUFT groups had payroll deductions for dues paid to their treasuries. The Controller's Office transmitted the modest dues to SUFT campus treasurers. Confronting tenuous ties between campus organizations, Ed made paramount the importance of moving forward as a single organization and therefore requested a unified charter from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Ed became first president of SUFT local 2190 within AFT.

During this time, Ed, as president of SUFT local 2190, testified before the legislature on academic and professional salaries. This was the period of the wage price freeze imposed by the Nixon administration. Ed, with relentless precision and perseverance, fought for collective bargaining rights. Ed became a spokesperson in tackling some of the problems with the State of New York regarding dues deduction. He interacted with the Controller's Office to prevent SPA (the first legal representative for SUNY faculty and professionals for terms and conditions) from requesting SUFT dues deductions. (When asked why SPA did not insist on all the dues, Ed replied that SPA did not have enough knowledge to exercise that right.) Ed asked that dues from all the campus locals of SUFT be sent to the official SUFT headquarters located in the De Witt Clinton Hotel in Albany (also headquarters of the Empire State Federation of Teachers, an AFT affiliate). The headquarters were in a hotel room, with files stored in the bathtub. The head of the Empire State Federation of Teachers managed literature printing and lobbied legislators.

Despite his union mission, Ed continued to teach sociology full-time at SUNY Oneonta. He drove from Oneonta to Albany two days a week to conduct SUFT business, dealing with the nitty gritty of dues collection. He received no mileage or compensation for his time. He had no secretary. The New York State Controller's Office sent dues directly to SUFT rather than to campus treasuries. The Controller's Office communicated changes in dues status of members from the various campuses. Ed asked the SUFT locals to surrender their charters, which was part of the process of getting one statewide local. Some campuses kept their charters. Ed convinced the Controller's Office there was one SUFT local.

SUFT had about 750 members and SPA approximately 3200 in 1972. There was to be a second collective bargaining election. Now that SPA had revenue through dues collection, members sought a more aggressive and ideological union attuned to campus life. SPA struggled to articulate programs and ideas. SPA became a lightning rod for complaints about inadequacies of contracts and representational ineffectiveness. The patchwork of SPA organizations constituted an anti-union movement at the time of the collective bargaining election. SUFT spawned effective agitators on many campuses.

By 1972, it became clear that the current union alignment failed to maximize the collective bargaining progress. Albert Shanker, head of the United Federation of Teachers UFT (affiliated with the AFT), and his team assessed that New York State wanted to bring together the AFT and NEA collective bargaining agents around the state. SUFT was an AFT entity competing with SPA, an NEA entity. It was decided that a merger between SPA and SUFT would be the only possibility for creating an effective union for SUNY academic and professional employees. Many dedicated labor unionists opposed the merger due to SPA's anti-union elements.

Ed noted that part of the process of selling the merger was creating images and illusions about what was taking place in order to sell and market the merger to the rank and file. The merger prevailed. SUFT Local 2190 merged with SPA to create a new organization, UUP (United University Professions). Ed wrote the UUP Constitution.

The uneasy merger did not quell differences between SPA and SUFT members. The first president of statewide UUP was Larry DeLucia of SUNY Oswego, formerly a SUFT stalwart. DeLucia was elected at the first UUP Delegate Assembly in 1973. DeLucia defeated SPA candidate Alan Willsey from Cortland. Discontent with SPA, primarily from the medical centers, led to DeLucia's victory over Willsey.

Ed recalled DeLucia as well meaning. Without telling anyone, however, DeLucia went on a three-month summer vacation to Arizona. There were no executive board meetings and no organization of staff. DeLucia delegated everything to the existing Executive Director. When DeLucia returned, the elements of the organization remained very divided. The Executive Board consisted mainly of individuals from the SPA faction of the organization, with fewer representatives from SUFT members.



At the first Executive Board meeting, Willsey and his SPA contingent introduced the motion to impeach DeLucia, which would be voted on at the Delegate Assembly under the new constitution of UUP. Ed recollected there were 15 people on the board. Ed was at the meeting as Legislative Chairperson, and when the vote came, there were seven in favor and eight against. The deciding vote came from SUNY Oneonta's inimitable Fred Miller. Although Ed could not vote, he gave a speech in favor of DeLucia, arguing that impeachment of the first president would damage the standing of the organization. DeLucia remained as UUP president until the election of 1975.

The first president of the Oneonta chapter of UUP was political scientist Denny Shea, a popular and iconic figure active in local politics, who defeated Ed in the inaugural election. When Denny showed up for the first time in Albany, other UUP chapter presidents who knew Ed looked at Denny and exclaimed, "Who the hell are you and what are you doing here?" (The preceding is an anecdote latter told in good humor by Denny, who was an effective first chapter president.) Ed conjectured that Denny won that first chapter election, in part, because Robert Moynihan, who succeeded Ed as the SUFT leader on the Oneonta campus, was opposed to the merger and thus campaigned against him.

Nonetheless, Ed's defining involvement in UUP on the campus and state levels remained uninterrupted. From 1973 - 1974, Ed was Legislative Chairperson of state UUP. Ed became aware, due to calculations from SUNY Oneonta chemistry professor Harry Pence, that the level of contribution by New York State for employees who were in TIAA-CREF needed some adjustment. Ed took it to heart and put it on the legislative agenda for UUP and, a few years later, New York State adjusted the contributions for employees in the TIAA-CREF system. Many other UUP achievements carry Ed's signature

Farmers often work long hours without direct compensation, facing the persistent risk of crop failure and fluctuating prices. The values Ed learned in his early life on a potato farm in a then remote section of Long Island served UUP well as he tenaciously fought for the union.

To be continued . . .



**UUP Oneonta Chapter Meeting Notes:**  
**Wednesday March 5th, 12 PM: Le Café, Morris Complex**

*by Bill Simons, Secretary*

Present: (31)

Otsego Grille: (30) Ron Bishop, Shirley Clark, Thomas Crabtree, Teresa DeSantis (CWA Chapter Assistant: non-voter), Chloe Diamond-Lenow, Sarah Dunlap, Christine Edwards, Ethan Fox, Sandra Garcia-Fine, Barbara Hein, Jeri Anne Jerminario, Achim Koeddermann, Grazyna Kamburowska, Penina Kamina, Yan Lang, J Lentner, Michelle Lopez, Mike McAvoy, Katherine Nelligan, Anthony Nichols, Riza Ozdemir, Sravan Perisetty, Audrey Porsche, Bill Simons, Jessie Simpauco, Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Matt Unangst, Alayna Vander Veer, and Gary Wickham

Zoom: (1) Melissa Lavin

I. President Shirley Clark called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

A. She thanked Executive Board members for their contributions, time, and dedication.

II. Treasurer's Annual Budget Proposal for 2025-2026: Rich Tyler

A. It was noted that the Treasurer's Annual Budget Proposal for 2025-2026 was previously approved by the Chapter Finance Committee and the Chapter Executive Board but still requires Chapter approval.

B. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Annual Budget Proposal for 2025-2026.

C. Discussion of Treasurer's Annual Budget Proposal for 2025-2026 ensued.

D. The Treasurer's Annual Budget Proposal for 2025-2026 passed 29-0-0. (Secretary addendum: The CWA assistant was recorded as present but did not vote, and a UUP member recorded as present left before the vote.)

### III. Chapter Candidate Forum

A. The following candidates delivered campaign statements at the Chapter meeting:

- (1) Shirley Clark: President
- (2) Jessie Simpauco: Vice President for Professionals (absent: prepared statement read for her)
- (3) Bill Simons: Secretary and Academic Delegate
- (4) Rich Tyler: Treasurer and Academic Delegate
- (5) Melissa Lavin: Officer for Contingents
- (6) Jeri Anne Jerminario: Officer for Retirees and Professional Delegate
- (7) Loraine Tyler: Academic Delegate
- (8) Michael McAvoy: Academic Delegate
- (9) Penina Kamina: Academic Delegate
- (10) Achim Koeddermann: Academic Delegate
- (11) Gary Wickham: Academic Delegate
- (12) Anthony Nichols: Professional Delegate
- (13) Christine Edwards: Professional Delegate

B. There was an opportunity to ask questions of candidates following their formal statements.

C. Some of the candidates also distributed written statements and/or posted statements under “Elections” on the Chapter website.

### III. Announcements of upcoming Chapter events

A. details noted below:

- (i) Wednesday, March 12: Social Hour, 3p-4:30 pm, Milne Library 102A
- (ii) Tuesday, March 18th: Supervisory Training: 12-1pm, Morris, Craven Lounge
- (iii) Wednesday, April 9, 11:30 AM-1 PM, Le Cafe, Morris Complex, UUP-Management  
Panel Discussion on *Student Classroom Engagement and Attendance: Confronting Disengagement and Absence*. Panelists: Mark Ferrara, Professor, English; Enrique

Morales-Diaz, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Robert Compton, Professor of Africana and Latinx Studies and Political Science; JoAnne Murphy, Director, Office of Academic Advisement. Moderator: Bill Simons, Professor Emeritus, History. Format: Moderator will request each panelist to provide a 5-minute response to the following: “What are the attributes and concerns related to student classroom engagement and attendance at SUNY Oneonta?” Following formal panelist remarks, the moderator will invite audience questions.

(iv) Wednesday, April 9: Social Hour, 3p-4:30 pm, Milne Library 102A

(v) Tuesday, May 6th: Workload for Professionals Workshop, 12-1pm, Morris, Le Cafe

(vi) Sunday, May 18: Spring Picnic, College Camp

B. A current list of upcoming Chapter events is available at <https://www.oneontauup.org/>

IV. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 1:06 pm

Submitted by Bill Simons, Secretary

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**Chapter Events:**

***Special Event:***

**April 9th- Panel Discussion-**

**Joint UUP-Management Program**

**on Student Classroom Engagement and Attendance**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025, from 11:30 AM-1 PM**

**Le Cafe, Morris Complex**

Student Classroom Engagement & Attendance Program: Confronting Disengagement & Absence:

UUP Oneonta and Management are jointly sponsoring an important panel discussion on Student Classroom Engagement and Attendance: Confronting Disengagement and Absence. The program is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025, from 11:30 AM-1 PM, in Le Café, Morris Complex.

The intended audience is the UUP membership with additional invitations to administrators involved in academic affairs and thus integral to the program. All UUP members — Academics and Professionals, Fulltime and Parttime — are encouraged to attend.

The following will comprise the panel:

- \*\* Mark Ferrara, Professor, English
- \*\* Enrique Morales-Diaz, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- \*\* Robert Compton, Professor, Africana and Latinx Studies and Political Science
- \*\* JoAnne Murphy, Director, Office of Academic Advisement

Bill Simons, Professor Emeritus, History, will moderate. The moderator will request each panelist to provide a 5-minute response to the following: “What are the concerns related to student classroom engagement/disengagement and attendance/absence at SUNY Oneonta?” Following formal panelist remarks, the moderator will open the forum to questions and comments.

The goal of the program is to initiate a dialogue designed to enhance student classroom engagement and attendance.

UUP Oneonta will provide lunch for its members and designated invitees who RSVP. To RSVP, send your reply to [oneonta@uupmail.org](mailto:oneonta@uupmail.org) today. RSVP Cutoff is April 1, 2025.

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Schedule for Chapter Meetings- Spring Semester, 2025- 12- 1 pm in Le Cafe, Morris Complex:  
April 2, May 7

UUP Social Hour: Weds April 9<sup>th</sup>- 3:4:30 pm- Milne Library 102A

Spring Workshops with Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff:

Tuesday, March 18th: Supervisory Training 12-1pm, Location Morris- Craven Lounge

Tuesday, May 6th: Workload for Professionals 12-1pm, Location Morris- Le Cafe

To RSVP, please send an email to Chapter Assistant Teresa DeSantis at [oneonta@uupmail.org](mailto:oneonta@uupmail.org)  
RSVP Cutoff is one week and 1 day before the event.

### **Disclaimer:**

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### **UUP Oneonta Website:**

To go to the UUP Oneonta Chapter website, go to the following link at

<http://www.oneontauup.org/>

The UUP Oneonta Chapter website is constantly updating, evolving, and expanding. It contains information about member benefits and many other important topics.

The statewide UUP website is located at <https://uupinfo.org>

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