



UUP Binghamton Executive Board / General Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

President's Report – Brendan McGovern

Contractual Raises

The negotiated raises and all back pay did appear in most November 22 paychecks. There were some hiccups, to be expected with such a large undertaking.

UUP Binghamton Chapter Special Election for Academic VP & Delegates

UUP Binghamton Chapter is currently holding a special election to fill our vacant Vice President for Academics position. We are using this special election as an opportunity to also fill our five vacant academic delegate positions.

All Binghamton Chapter academics on payroll on November 06, 2023 should have received a letter via the USPS seeking nominations for the following positions:

Vice President for Academics and Delegate (You can nominate up to 1)

Academic Delegate (You can nominate up to 5)

Nominations will close on December 11, 2023, and the election will be held soon after academics return from winter break.

School Related Professionals Day

We joined with CSEA and the Professional Staff Senate to celebrate School Related Professionals on Tuesday, November 21. A message from PSS Chair Courtney Ignarri, CSEA President Raymond Hallett and myself was posted on Dateline went out on our respective listservs to all staff members, both Professional and Classified, on Campus. Thanks to Andre Mathis, UUP Delegate, Professional Staff Senate Vice Chair, and member of the NYSUT SRP Advisory Committee (3rd term), for raising awareness of this special day.

Benefits fair

UUP Benefits Fair was held on Thursday, November 16 in the Mandela Room. Turnout exceeded pre-COVID numbers. A huge 'thank you' to UUP Chapter Assistant Linda O'Bransky for organizing this successful event each year!

UUP Retiree Luncheon

Bob Mess, UUP Binghamton Chapter Officer for Retirees, addresses the crowd at the UUP Retire Luncheon on Monday, November 20 in the Benet Alumni Lounge of Old O'Connor. Special thanks to Corinna Kruman, who is the only UUP member in Human Resources, for organizing this terrific event.

UUP Statewide President Fred Kowal seeks TAP expansion to cover fees

SUNY's landmark Tuition Assistance Program has made it possible for untold thousands of students to attend college in the 50 years since TAP started.

But times have changed since New York introduced this state grant program for students who meet the financial eligibility requirements. Now, mandatory fees for students beyond tuition can add thousands of dollars to the cost of college – and TAP can't cover those fees.

With that concern in mind, UUP President Fred Kowal joined more than a dozen other advocates for SUNY Nov. 28 in a hearing before the Assembly Committee on Higher Education to ask that TAP be expanded to cover student fees. The committee is chaired by Albany Assembly member Patricia Fahy, a longtime advocate for SUNY and an ally of UUP.

“The increased fees, on top of tuition, are making college more and more unaffordable,” Kowal told lawmakers in his testimony. “While there is a need for these fees, there should be some control over fee hikes. Rolling fees into tuition costs would accomplish that. By doing so, fees would become TAP-eligible.”

UUP Supports GSEU Fight to Abolish All Graduate Worker Fees

On Friday, November 17, 2023, UUP members lent support to our GSEU union brothers and sisters in their fight to abolish broad based university fees for all graduate student workers. Speakers included Andrey Dorovskikh, Upstate Organizer for CWA Local 1104 Education Division; Brendan McGovern, UUP Binghamton Chapter President; Nate Hotchkiss, Binghamton City Councilmember-elect; and Shruti Jain, a 4th year PhD student in English and a chief steward of GSEU.

Attendees marched into the Couper Administration Building and unraveled a petition calling for elimination of graduate worker fees from the lobby stairs to the main reception area. The petition had 1,039 signatures and [can be found at this link](#). Here is a summary of the GSEU ask:

In April 2023 the NYS budget included money allocated to cover the exorbitant fees charged to teaching assistants at Binghamton University. These fees can be up to 1600 per semester. No other teachers on campus are charged fees so that they can do their jobs. Neither should graduate teaching assistants. However, the administration still will not cover the fees of teaching assistants in MA/MS programs even though they are doing the exact same job as their doctoral counterparts whose fees are being covered. Our petition demands that the Binghamton

administration end the practice of charging their employees fees just so they can do their jobs, especially since they are receiving money from the state for that very purpose.

November UUP Membership Development Drives

November was a strong month for Binghamton Chapter UUP outreach. It began on November 1 with the kickoff of our 1 On 1 campaign to reach out to every member of the bargaining unit and continued with Statewide Organizers joining us for a three-day Membership Drive on November 14, 15 and 16 where we reached out to non-members and successfully recruited 10 new members to join with us in UUP.

Reminder: Take Advantage of Contractual Programs

- **Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) 2024 Enrollment Period:** Nov. 1 - Dec. 11, 2023
- **Flex Spending Accounts:**
 - NYS Office of Employee Relations Announcement: Open Enrollment Period for the 2024 NYS Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Plan is Wednesday, November 1st until 11:59 pm Monday, December 11th
 - HCA
 - DCAA

UNION WINS

In November we not only grew as a Union by bringing in new members, we also fought and won for our existing members. Our notable wins included:

A member was denied tenure by their Dean despite unanimous support of the IPC Committee. We fought for this member and now they are proudly addressed as Associate Professor of Binghamton University – Fully tenured!

A group of members were subject to on call recall. Unable on their days off to participate in family and friendly gatherings and events that might bring them just far enough away from the university that they would be unable to return at a moment's notice and unable to engage in certain activities like enjoying a beer on their day off. As of this week, we have come to a Memo Of Understanding with management and that policy is cancelled!

If it exists, the term "on call" shall be removed from job description and performance program."