



## **MINUTES**

*UUP Binghamton Executive Board / General Meeting*

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Executive Board: 11:30 - 11:50 a.m. General Members Meeting: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

UJW-324

PRESENT: R. Andrews, T. Chadha, T. Chronopoulos, R. Collier, P. Doyle, L. Gallagher, C. Gelderloos, F. Goldman, C. Ignarri, P. Knuepfer, D. Kunkel, S. L’Hommedieu, A. Mathis, B. McGovern, R. Mess, T. Norton, J. Starks, D. Stone, A. Wang, M. Weiland

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY: C. Kovacs, B. Polzin

GUESTS ATTENDING IN PERSON: C. Sielaff, Labor Relations Specialist, Jordan Helin, Staff Organizer, N. Alfarano, R. Cope, K. Cummings, A. Douglas, G. Jimenez-Munoz, S. Lewis, A. Messersmith-Mars, A. Phelps, J. Raskind, F. Reichert, René Rojas, M. Sabry, K. Santiago-Valles, P. Valenta, M. Vinluan

GUESTS ATTENDING REMOTELY: S. Casanova, K. Folckemer, J. Obie, P. Williams, B. Zelesnikar

Brendan McGovern called the meeting to order at approximately 11:40 a.m. and welcomed all to the March meeting.

### **Executive Board Meeting**

1. Approve Minutes from February 14, 2024, Executive Board Meeting (attached)  
Robert Mess **MOVED TO APPROVE** the February 14, 2024, Executive Board / General Meeting Minutes. **SECONDED** by Claire Kovacs. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** (20 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN)
2. Passing the Hat for the Sunshine Fund (Brendan)  
The Sunshine Fund was set up to use for purposes that would not be covered by the Chapter Allocation, such as get-well gifts and retirement gifts. The Executive Board has been passing the hat for the last nine years (unless meetings were held virtually). It is voluntary and up to members if they want to contribute or not. \$31.00 was collected at the March 13, 2024, meeting.

A request from Sunshine Fund Coordinator David Stone to step down from this position was accepted. Chapter President Brendan McGovern suggested setting up a Sunshine Fund Committee, as some other Chapters do and asked for volunteers. Patrick Doyle, Robert Mess, and Marjorie Weiland agreed to serve on the Sunshine Fund Committee.

3. Treasurer's Report (Alan):  
Treasurer Alan Wang reported it was a normal month of activity. He stated the Chapter received an allocation from Statewide and the quarterly audit was completed, adding he has not heard anything back so thinks the audit went ok. Peter Knuepfer **MOVED TO APPROVE** the February 2024 Monthly Treasurer's Report. **SECONDED** by Robert Mess. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** (20 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN)
  
4. New Business
  - a. Request to Co-sponsor Lecture by Mike Zweig – See accompanying document for more information (Claire)  
Claire Kovacs reported the original request for the Chapter to co-sponsor a lecture by Mike Zweig in the amount of \$250 has been reduced to \$50, as Human Development, Human Rights, and Sociology have also agreed to co-sponsor this event. The cost is for an honorarium that will also cover mileage and meals. Mike is a UUP member, Emeritus Professor of Economics and Founding Director of the Center for Study of Working Class Life at Stony Brook. She stated the lecture will be held on Friday, March 22 at noon in AA-G007. The question was raised if Professor Zweig is giving a lecture or is this a book tour for his new book, as if it is a book tour, it means the Chapter would be endorsing his book. Claire stated hosting a lecture on campus is not an endorsement of his book and read a quick summary of Professor Zweig's new book when asked what it was about. Discussion followed and John Starks asked to call the vote. Courtney Ignarri **MOVED TO APPROVE** a request for \$50 to co-sponsor the lecture. **SECONDED** by John Starks. **MOTION TO SUPPORT PASSED.** (15 AYE, 2 NAY, 4 ABSTAIN)

## General Meeting

1. President's Report (Brendan)  
  
See attached Report from UUP Chapter President Brendan McGovern.
  
2. Chapter Officers' Report:
  - a. Vice-President, Academics (Tejpreet)  
Vice-President for Academics, Tejpreet Chadha reported she has been talking with members of UUP who are having trouble, adding she is meeting with Brendan and Labor Relations Specialist, Chris Seilaff to learn how things are done. She stated some situations are due to stress, and they are trying to figure out how to help them. As meetings go on, she will regularly update the Executive Board.
  
  - b. Vice-President, Professionals (Claire)  
Vice-President for Professionals, Claire Kovacs reported she continues to meet with members and reminded professionals if they have a question about working conditions, they should reach out to her. If she is unable to assist, she can put you in contact with those who can. Claire stated she is still looking for department representatives and thanked Courtney Ignarri for her assistance. She added *Lunch and Labor* continues, and former UUP Statewide Secretary Eileen Landy has been invited to talk about UUP from her perspective.

- c. Officer for Contingents (Renee)  
Officer for Contingents, Renee Andrews reported she has had a couple of contingents contact her regarding dental and asked for a contact number. Chapter Assistant, Linda O’Branski stated she will send Renee the contact information. Renee added she will follow up with the members through email.
  - d. Officer for Retirees (Bob)  
Officer for Retirees, Robert Mess reported the semi-annual lunch for retirees will be held on June 18. He added the speaker will be Carl Lipo from Harpur who will discuss his research on Easter Island. He encouraged all retirees to attend.
3. Committee Reports:
- a. Membership (Don)  
Membership Development Officer, Donald Kunkel thanked Courtney Ignarri for leading the last two New Employee Orientations. He added the NEOs continue bi-weekly and although attendance is down this time of year, he expects it to pick up a bit before summer employment. Donald stated he had a couple of members reach out to him with issues dealing with departments, and he has connected with Labor Relations Specialist, Chris Sielaff to address these concerns. Brendan added at Tuesday’s NEO, three people attended and all three became members. He thanked Donald and Courtney for their assistance.
  - b. Communications (Kitty, Marjorie, Troy)
    - i. Chapter Notes biweekly newsletter (Marjorie)  
Communications Committee member, Marjorie Weiland thanked everyone on the Committee for their continued support, adding the Committee welcomes new members to join this fun and welcoming Committee, with a commitment that is very small and meets via Zoom. If anyone is interested in joining, contact Marjorie, Troy Norton, or Kitty Cummings. She added five bulletin boards are ordered at a time and if anyone is in an area where they believe a UUP bulletin board should be placed to email her, and the Committee will discuss and decide on the request.
    - ii. Spring 2024 newsletter (Troy)
      - 1. Seeking members to write for the Spring newsletter. Contact Troy at [tnorton@binghamton.edu](mailto:tnorton@binghamton.edu) to confirm what topic you're interested in.  
Troy Norton reported the aim for publication of the spring newsletter is June, and if anyone is interested in writing an article, send him an email at [tnorton@binghamton.edu](mailto:tnorton@binghamton.edu) or talk with him after the meeting. He added the Chapter is looking for folks who are technically adept to handle the Zoom component. If anyone is interested, please contact Troy.
  - c. Outreach (Brendan)  
This topic was covered in **General Meeting 1**. President’s Report (Brendan).

- d. IDA (Brendan / Don)  
Individual Development Award Coordinator, Aaron Phelps reported applications are still being accepted with April 14 as the cutoff date. He added if anyone has professional development between now and the beginning of July, you can submit up to two applications totaling \$2000 for reimbursement for conference registration, hotel, food, transportation expenses and other funds used for a professional activity. Aaron stated the campus committee reviews all applications and makes its recommendations to GOER for review and approval, which is notoriously slow, adding the campus committee has been waiting for approval on a batch of applications that have been submitted. Aaron explained if you do not have the \$2000 upfront, you can ask your department to pay, and we can reimburse the department. If all IDA funds are not allocated, they will roll over. Chapter President Brendan McGovern thanked Aaron for his continued assistance with the administration of the IDA. Aaron will send Brendan a copy of what expenses can and cannot be reimbursed from IDA funds.
  - e. Events & Hospitality (Allie)  
Events & Hospitality Co-Chair, Alexandra Messersmith-Mars reported a Coffee and Breakfast Bites event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the Pharmacy Atrium. She added Coffee and Breakfast Bites has been a big hit, and the Chapter has received good feedback from members regarding it.
4. Chapter Business:
- a. Database (Courtney)  
Courtney Ignarri reported the Chapter finished updating the database to include member offices to provide department representatives with a location to have one-on-one conversations with members. She thanked those who assisted with these updates, adding this will make the job of organizing that much more efficient.
  - b. Resolution calling for UUP Solidarity with Palestinians (Claire/Carl)  
Carl Gelderloos reported he, Claire Kovacs and a bunch of other people revised the Resolution calling for UUP Solidarity with Palestinians to address feedback received. Claire Kovacs **MOVED TO APPROVE** the revised Resolution calling for UUP Binghamton Resolution on Palestine. **SECONDED** by Robert Mess. After considerable discussion, a vote was called. **MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED.** (16 AYE, 1 NAY, 3 ABSTAIN)
5. New Business/Questions/Comments/Issues from the Floor.
6. Proud to be UUP - Membership Outreach (Jordan Helin – UUP organizer)  
Due to lack of time, UUP Organizer, Jordan Helin was unable to present.
7. Announcements  
René Rojas of the Department of Human Development announced at 6 p.m. on April 11 in UDC 220, Farah Stockman, a member of the New York Times editorial board will give a lecture and invited all to attend. Brendan stated UUP co-sponsors these events, but many Executive Board members will be attending the UUP 2024 Spring Delegate Assembly that day.

Vice President for Academics, Tejpreet Chadha asked if the Chapter could organize workshops on stress level and culture. Chapter President Brendan McGovern agreed certainly this can be done.

8. Adjourn – Next meeting Wednesday 4/10 at 11:30 in UUW-324.  
Robert Mess **MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED** by Patrick Doyle. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**The next Executive Board/General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 11:30 a.m. in UUW-324.**