



## MINUTES

*UUP Binghamton Executive Board / General Meeting*

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Executive Board / General Meeting: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

UU-111

### **Executive Board / General Meeting**

Present: T. Chronopoulos, R. Collier, P. Doyle, L. Gallagher, C. Gelderloos, R. Harrison, C. Ignarri, M. Kelly, P. Knuepfer, D. Kunkel, S. L'Hommedieu, A. Mathis, B. McGovern, R. Mess, T. Norton, B. Polzin, J. Starks, A. Wang

Guests: C. Sielaff, Labor Relations Specialist, N. Alfarano, K. Cummings, N. Eggleston, M. Fabrizio, A. Flint, J. Kiereck, C. Konnick, Y. Li, B. Lubert, A. Messersmith-Mars, A. Phelps, F. Reichert, P. Valenta, M. Vinluan, E. Wright

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m. Chapter President Brendan McGovern welcomed all to the February meeting.

1. Approve Minutes from December 11, 2024, Executive Board Meeting (attached)  
Robert Mess **MOVED TO APPROVE** the December 11, 2024, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. **SECONDED** by Patrick Doyle. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** (16 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN)
2. Passing the Hat for the Sunshine Fund  
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 ten years (unless meetings were held virtually). It is voluntary and up to members if they want to contribute or not. \$59.00 was collected at the February 12, 2025, meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report (attached) – Alan
  - a. 2025-2026 Chapter Budget  
Treasurer, Alan Wang reported the chapter received its January allocation. He reviewed the December and January Treasurer's Reports and asked if there were any questions. Donald Kunkel **MOVED TO APPROVE** the December 2024 and January 2025 Treasurer's Reports. **SECONDED** by Robert Mess. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** A draft of the 2025-2026 Budget Request Form was displayed, as well as a list of the UUP Binghamton Chapter 2025-2026 Committee/Area Budgets. Chapter President Brendan McGovern reported UUP President Fred Kowal previously stated the chapter can and he encouraged the chapter to spend down reserves as there are mechanisms in place to receive additional funding. Discussion followed regarding hedging for rainy day funds, additional allocations to the DEI Committee, member engagement, etc. Active chapters are able to put in requests mid-year for additional funding, as long as

they can justify the means. Brendan suggested the chapter DEI Committee put something in the Chapter Notes Newsletter and coordinate with Troy to do a larger article in the next Connections Newsletter. Robert Mess **MOVED TO APPROVE** the 2025-2026 Budget Request. **SECONDED** by Stuart L'Hommedieu. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**

4. President's Report - Brendan  
(See attached President's Report.)  
Chapter President Brendan McGovern asked for a moment of silence in honor of Executive Board member Bonnie Cornick who passed away on January 17, 2025. Brendan announced later in the meeting he would be asking for nominations to fill the positions of chapter Academic Vice President and Secretary on an acting basis as well as a chapter UUP representative to serve on the Parking and Transportation Stakeholders Group, a position previously held by Bonnie Cornick.
5. Chapter Officers' Report:
  - a. Vice-President, Professionals - Troy  
Vice President for Professionals, Troy Norton reported a Professional Concerns Committee meeting was held via Zoom on February 3, and a second meeting of the semester will be scheduled in March. Troy stated discussion continues on mental and dental health, and a survey which will be sent to professional members requesting feedback is being drafted. He added in the next month or so a Statewide survey will be sent which will touch on various workplace issues. Troy announced the College Review Panel is working on two active cases, with documents submitted for a third. He added there may be a bit of an uptick in submissions after the January period of requests. Troy thanked all who wrote articles for the Fall 2024 edition of the Connection Newsletter, stating it has been released and published digitally. Printed copies are available in the chapter office. Please contact Troy or Linda if you would like copies. Troy stated if anyone is interested in writing an article, would like to write an article and are looking for ideas, or have suggestions regarding what should appear in the Spring 2025 newsletter to contact him at [tnorton@binghamton.edu](mailto:tnorton@binghamton.edu). The general length is one to two pages, but these are not strict parameters. The deadline for drafts is Friday, April 11 with the published version ready in June. Troy announced that Higher Education Labor United (HELU), of which UUP is a part, is holding a day of action for higher education on Wednesday, February 19. The website is [www.labor4highered.org](http://www.labor4highered.org). If interested, please contact Troy.
  - b. Membership Development Officer - Courtney  
Donald Kunkel reported he, Courtney and Troy have been regularly attending New Employee Orientations and encouraged other members to attend. At the last NEO, seven out of the eight attendees became members. Department reps are going to be doing a card writing campaign, and all are welcome to attend.
  - c. Officer for Contingents - Renee  
Officer for Contingents, Renee Andrews did not attend so no report was given.

- d. Officer for Retirees - Bob  
Officer for Retirees, Robert Mess reported there will be a luncheon for retirees scheduled in the next couple of months, and he will announce the date and name of the speaker once arrangements are finalized.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Communications - Kitty, Marjorie  
Kitty Cummings reported that Marjorie is always looking for additions to the Chapter Notes Newsletter, such as member spotlights, events, etc. She added events are listed on the chapter UUP calendar and if you don't subscribe, she encouraged you to do so. The Communications Committee meets every couple of weeks and is always looking for more help.
- b. Events & Hospitality - Allie / Aaron / Kitty  
Kitty Cummings reported that Coffee and Breakfast Bites is a huge, popular event and the Events & Hospitality Committee is looking for assistance with set up, clean up, and organization. Meetings are listed on the chapter UUP calendar. She added the Committee is trying to consolidate some of the places they purchase items, while still offering what people like. Kitty announced if anyone would like to give an update at this event, they are encouraged to do so. She stated Troy gave a brief update at the last Coffee and Breakfast Bites, and she felt it was well received. Patrick Doyle announced Happy Hours are held the fourth Thursday of every month. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, February 27 at Food and Fire and the March event is scheduled to be held at Irish Kevins.
- c. Membership / Union Reps - Courtney / Nick  
Nicholas Eggleston reported the addition of three new department reps, adding they are looking to do an in-person event with food so people can get to know each other, have fun, and build a sense of community.
- d. Labor Education - Fran  
Fran Reichert announced that Lunch and Labor will begin next Wednesday, February 19, in person from 11:00 a.m. until noon in UUP-324. If anyone would like to participate, please contact Fran, and she will send you pdfs and links to the material. She announced Labor Education is looking at digital journal subscriptions with the hope of creating a chapter UUP Library.
- e. IDA - Aaron  
IDA Coordinator, Aaron Phelps announced another batch of applications will be sent to the State and it appears we will eat up the last of our COVID funds so the checks might not look as big as they have been. He encouraged members if they are looking for their applications to be included in this batch, to get things in by the end of this week. Aaron stated that applicants should be mindful of mileage reimbursement if they are using their own vehicles, as the amount of reimbursement received will only be the equivalent of the amount of a car rental. He added if you have questions regarding travel reimbursements, to contact Rose Hassett. Brendan suggested that Aaron put an announcement in the next Chapter Notes Newsletter regarding this.

f. Outreach - Brendan

7. Chapter Business:

Chapter President, Brendan McGovern announced that nominations for chapter elections close at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 14, adding the chapter is short on academics. This is a two-year term beginning June 1, 2025, and he encouraged members to go to the Members Only UUP Statewide website and nominate yourself to be a delegate. He added only one vote is needed to be on the chapter Executive Board, but five votes are needed to become a delegate, and retirees are eligible to become delegates. There are two Delegate Assemblies a year and delegates usually receive EOL (Employee Organizational Leave) to participate. Brendan added if you do not know your membership number, contact UUP or the UUP Benefit Trust Fund at 800-887-3863.

Brendan announced the chapter Vice President for Academics position needs to be filled on an Acting basis. He asked if there were any nominations to fill the position until the chapter elections. Fran Reichert **MOVED TO NOMINATE** Rosemary Collier to fill the position of Acting Vice President for Academics. **SECONDED** by Robert Mess. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** Brendan asked for nominations three times. Only one nomination was received.

a. Appoint Acting Secretary

Brendan announced revision of the chapter By-Laws was recently approved and the revised By-Laws separate the position of Secretary/Treasurer to a Secretary and a Treasurer. He asked for nominations to fill the position of Acting Secretary until the chapter elections. Rosemary Collier **MOVED TO NOMINATE** Fran Reichert to fill the position of Acting Secretary. **SECONDED** by Troy Norton. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** Brendan asked for nominations three times. Only one nomination was received.

b. Appoint UUP Rep for Parking and Transportation Stakeholders Group meetings (Bonnie served here)

Brendan announced the need for a volunteer to serve as a UUP representative for the Parking and Transportation Stakeholders Group, as the position was held by Bonnie Cornick. Michael Kelly agreed to serve.

c. Volunteers for Beat the Winter Blues (4)

March 26, 2025, from 4 pm – 6 pm.

Fran Reichert announced Beat the Winter Blues is scheduled for March 26 from 4-6 p.m. in the University Union Fireplace Lounge. She added students have access to this area, so it is necessary for the chapter to have people sitting at a check-in desk. During check-in, members who enter will receive a wristband and the chapter will need to ensure that no one leaves the function with alcohol. As Fran has a lab and is unable to attend, she asked for volunteers. Lisa Gallagher, Robert Mess, and Rosemary Collier volunteered to assist.

d. Chapter Elections

Discussed in 7. Chapter Business.

e. GSEU Organizing Efforts - Andrey Darovskikh

Brendan announced that Audrey Darovskikh of GSEU was invited to speak at the meeting but did not attend, adding GSEU has been without a contract since 2023 and organized a rally last week. He stated UUP, CSEA and GSEU are the three largest labor unions on campus and stressed the need for solidarity moving forward.

8. Questions / comments / issues from the floor

Tina Chronopoulos announced that both she and Andre Mathis have been selected to serve on the Search Committee for the President, adding on today's Dateline there is a link encouraging people to give feedback. Tina urged people to fill this out as they want to move quickly on the search, adding the more people who participate the more power.

9. Discussion Item

- a. Recent federal policies under the Trump administration have created significant challenges for United University Professions (UUP) members, particularly in areas such as funding freezes, restrictions on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and broader impacts on labor and education. To better understand these issues and explore potential actions, we will dedicate the last portion of our meeting to a discussion on their effects.

Brendan McGovern introduced Adam Flint an alum, who represents the concerns of residents in Binghamton. Adam stated there is a new alliance in town to protect the rights of vulnerable people, starting with immigrants and trans folks. He added everyone needs to prepare themselves and needs a plan if ICE comes knocking. Brendan stated information is being collected at the Statewide level, on how people are being affected, and we are working on our response. Discussion followed regarding what members have heard, what has been said, and obligations of FERPA. If anyone comes looking for a student, you are not authorized to share any information about them. You are obligated under FERBA not to disclose information about students. It is important to remember that no individual employee is in charge of monitoring who does or does not come on campus. If anyone is asking questions, contact the University Police and the administration to let them know someone is here asking questions. In the next couple of weeks, Brendan will schedule a meeting and invite a representative from UUP Statewide to attend in an effort to gather more information, discuss concerns, address questions, and formulate a local chapter response.

10. Announcements

11. Robert Mess **MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED** by Donald Kunkel. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 12, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in The Old Champlain Atrium.**