



President's Report: January 14, 2026

Brendan McGovern, President, UUP Binghamton Chapter

Thank You for Your Support During My Family Leave

Last semester, I stepped away from my chapter duties for an extended family leave to care for two close relatives, one in home hospice and one recovering from major surgery. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who stepped up during this time.

I especially want to thank Vice President for Academics Rosemary Collier, who served as Acting President with great care and steadiness, and our entire Executive Board for continuing the work of our chapter without missing a beat. Special thanks as well to our Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff for providing his usual expert guidance and support to our officers and members while I was away.

It is good to be back. I am grateful to rejoin you all in the fight for our members.

Advocacy Day 2026: A Crucial Year Ahead

UUP's 2026 Legislative Agenda lays out an ambitious and necessary vision for public higher education, our hospitals, and the communities we serve. The stakes are high. While this year's state budget presents manageable shortfalls, projections for 2026-2027 show New York could face deficits of \$8 to \$10 billion annually, primarily due to the fallout from federal tax changes that favor the ultra-wealthy and shortchange states like ours.

That is why UUP Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 24 is so important.

We have won real gains in recent years because our members have shown up. We helped secure historic investments in SUNY. That includes major capital funding for SUNY hospitals, operating aid increases for campuses, and expanded resources for students and patient care. None of it happened by accident. It happened because we made our case directly to lawmakers, and did it together.

Now we must do it again.

This year, we are pushing for major investments in SUNY, a real commitment to public hospitals, and long-overdue changes to Tier 6 retirement for future and current employees. We're also demanding New York raise new revenue through fair taxation of the ultra-wealthy. That message is most powerful when it comes from us—those who live the impact of underfunding and instability every day.

If you've never participated in Advocacy Day before, this is a great opportunity to see our union in action. And if you're unsure what to expect, UUP is offering virtual "Learn About Advocacy" workshops this month.

Fix Tier Six: UUP and NYSUT's Big Push

In addition to UUP's own advocacy efforts, AFL-CIO, NYSUT, and UUP are preparing a major statewide campaign this spring to finally Fix Tier 6. This will include direct legislative action and mobilization across regions. UUP will be a key partner in this work.

We invite you to join us at an upcoming **Fix Tier 6 Rally**: Sunday, March 8, 2026

Let's show that we're in this for the long haul. **We won't quit until we Fix Tier Six.**

Looking Ahead to Labor Management

Later this month, we'll bring a number of important topics to Labor Management, including:

- The feasibility of 9-month professional appointments in units where summer work is minimal
- The implementation of digital ID cards
- Parking improvements, including a proposal to convert Lot S2 into a commuter lot
- Performance program compliance and the enforcement of related discretionary salary policies
- Updates on CES (successor to SOOTs) and its potential implications for academic evaluations

Help Us Plan a Major UUP Chapter Event

Our Events & Hospitality Committee is in the early stages of planning a large-scale spring event for our chapter. If you're interested in helping shape the vision, logistics, or outreach for that event, please let us know—we'd love your involvement.

Additionally, I met this week with Justin Neretich of the Binghamton City School District, and we're working to organize a **joint UUP summer picnic** for our two chapters, possibly alongside SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Delhi as well. Stay tuned.

Closing Thought

In every meeting, every negotiation, and every legislative push, our strength comes from each other. As we begin this new semester together, let's continue to lead with empathy, with resolve, and with the knowledge that our union is only as strong as our collective action.

Thank you for your continued solidarity.

In solidarity,

Brendan McGovern

President, UUP Binghamton Chapter