

**Plattsburgh Chapter
UUP Membership Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023
12:30 p.m.
Alumni Room**

Attending: Gerianne Downs, Michelle Toth, Matt Salvatore, Oscar Flores, Sarah Hackett, Shawna Mefferd-Kelty, Kim Hartshorn, Ray Guydosh, Wendy Gordon, Kathy Briggs, Fredrica Appau, Jacob Avery, Jenna Beauregard, Michelle Bonati, John Chambers, Suzannah Chatlos, Sarah Cunningham, Jesse DeCosse, Kathleen Duffy, Mackenzie Dumas, Arlis Garcia, Heather Garcia, Tyler Hargraves, Tobi Hay, Holly Heller-Ross, Marisa Hoogkamp, Kirsten Isgro, Troy Joseph, Cassie Joseph, Charlson Joseph, Mark Kaiser, Felicia Krieg, Eric Laessig, Melissa LaMere, Brooke Layhee, Shataundra Lister, Levi Martinez, Sara Munson, Luke Myers, Rohit Rampal, Mark Richard, Sarah Richard, Robert Richter, Ed Romanowicz, Richard Shaefer, Patricia Shinn, Virginia Siskavich-Bosley, Jessica Spurdis, Mila Su, Amanda Suriel, Karrie Tromblay, Jackie Vogl, Keith Wasberg: 53, including three retirees and LRS

1. Welcome and Introductions

President Michelle Toth introduced officers, including Matt Salvatore, vice president for professionals; Gerianne Downs, chapter secretary; Oscar Flores, treasurer; Sarah Hackett, officer for contingents; Shawna Mefferd-Kelty, membership officer; Ray Guydosh, officer for retirees; Kim Hartshorn, political action officer; and Wendy Gordon, social coordinator. Dan Gordon, vice president for academics, was absent.

2. Presentation and Vote on [2023-2024 Chapter Budget](#)

Treasurer Oscar Flores presented the budget. With no questions, the motion to approve was moved by member Mila Su; motion was seconded by member Levi Martinez. Motion passed unanimously with 49 ayes. Not voting were retirees and LRS in attendance.

3. Chapter Election — Nomination forms due in Albany by Feb. 17.

a. Officers and Delegates needed

Michelle Toth gave a rundown of the delegates and the need for same. She explained how delegates have the opportunity to learn the inner workings of the union and attend the twice-yearly state delegates assembly where expenses for travel, food and lodging are covered. Kim Hartshorn informed members that delegates are able to charge that time to Employee Organizational Leave; they do not charge it to vacation or sick time.

At this time the chapter is in need of someone to run for vice president for professionals as well.

4. Dept/Building Reps

a. Outreach to new hires

Shawna sent out list to current building reps asking if they would like to continue on as building and department reps. She will be sending out emails for a membership building project. The goal is to look at each department and ask if they are 100 percent union. The goal is to bring membership up to 100 percent.

She suggested members have conversations with colleagues, asking if they've signed up yet. While there are membership cards still available to sign, it is preferable and easier

to sign up on line, either through the chapter UUP website or at UUP.org. Shawna suggested sharing that it costs pennies for dollars. Share door tags, wear a tee shirts, wear a buttons.

Kim said members are also enrolled in NYSUT and AFT when they sign up for UUP.

Mila Su reminded members that there are benefits for members beyond campus such as discounts online and in stores. Kathy Briggs said there is reasonably priced life insurance.

5. Contract Update

Members can find up-to-date information on contract negotiations in the Members Only section of the UUP website. Michelle said that while it seems health insurance negotiations are going well, there are other issues we are getting push back on from the state. The chapter will most likely be turning to members to help in April for more visibility and stronger push back from the chapter.

6. UUP perspectives on the Governor's proposed budget

Kim reported that the governor's budget is actually pretty good for higher education, but there's always more UUP is asking for. There's always a concentration of support for the university centers; UUP is asking that the funding be spread out for comprehensives and tech campuses. On the plus side, there seems to be more money heading to community colleges. Kim read the list of 19 campuses that are in or heading for structural deficits. Plattsburgh was among those on the list. He said all those listed have strategic plans similar to Plattsburgh Next, with revenue plans based on increased enrollment. He said that we're counting on 500 new or retained students, and that still leaves the college in the red. Without an increase in enrollment, the deficit is nearly three times as much. While there's never been real talk about consolidating campuses, Kim said for the first time he's hearing it bandied about in conversation.

7. Chapter Bylaw revisions and voting process

Michelle reported that the three-person committee for bylaws revision — herself, Gerianne and Wanda Carroll — worked the last few months to come up with a proposed revised bylaw document that needs to be looked at by UUP before being brought up for a secret vote by membership. Among the items looked at are:

- a. Removed term limits: was three consecutive terms in one position

Michelle said we have people who have termed out such as Dan Gordon, current vp for academics, who wouldn't mind staying on but he can.

- b. Updated Officer Duties: VPs taking point on Performance Review issues
- c. Added: a DEI chapter officer
- d. Changed: At-large chapter exec board members — the top vote getters in respective delegate categories
UUP website

8. Coming up:

- a. UUP Advocacy Day — N.Y. Statehouse — Tuesday, Feb. 14

Kim and Michelle will be going down. Registration is through UUP.

- b. Workload Workshop – for both academics and professionals
Monday, Feb. 27 at noon in the Cardinal Lounge
[Register Here](#) (Lunch provided)
 - c. Professionals Meeting — Thursday, March 2 at noon
Release time approved.
 - d. Save the Date:
Spring Mixer — Meron's on Friday, May 12. A family-friendly event. Pizza and wings will be served. Tokens will be available for purchase for beverages.
9. Kim brought up Vote Cope, the political action entity. More information is in the most recent newsletter sent out by Chapter Assistant Patricia Downs. Email pdown003@plattsburgh.edu for a copy or visit the chapter UUP site.

With no new business or additional questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.