



## **Plattsburgh UUP Chapter Newsletter Fall 2023**

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Academics Meetings**

Monthly zoom meetings at 2pm on the following dates:

11/17/23

12/15/23

#### **Professionals Meetings**

Monthly zoom meetings at 12pm on the following dates:

11/16/23

12/13/23

## **From Chapter President Michelle Toth**

### **Contingent News**

#### **Increased Contingent Representation on the UUP Executive Board**

At the Fall 2023 Delegate Assembly the delegates voted and passed a constitutional amendment changing the composition of the of the state-wide UUP executive board. It will now require two contingent members, one Academic and one Professional, to be elected to the board.

“Total membership on the Executive Board shall reflect the approximate whole-number ratio by the categories of membership on the rolls of United University Professions. The Executive Board shall include no fewer than one member from each of the five types of Chapters, as defined in Article VII, Section 4, of this Constitution and no fewer than one academic and one professional contingent members, as defined in Article III, Section 2, of this Constitution.”

#### **Clarification for Lecturers about 3-Year Appointments**

There have been a lot of questions about this aspect of the new contract. The language put forward was confusing. At the DA we have consulted with our Lead Contract Negotiator, the UUP Lawyer, and the UUP Contingent Committee.

The confusion was around the date of Sept. 12, 2023 being the start/implementation date. Most Lecturers were reviewed in the spring of 2023 and received letters in May 2023. However, unless you are a new lecturer, the appointment letter you received is for the following year starting Fall 2024.

It is our understanding at this point that those letters should be re-issued and those with the required 7 years of service should receive revised appointment letters with 3-year appointments.

#### **Other Items in the Contract Effecting Contingents**

Increased starting salaries for SL1, 2, & 3, and Lecturers.

Adjunct/contingent faculty can now become eligible for health benefits by teaching one 3-credit course at two separate SUNY (state-operated/UUP-represented) campuses.

2023-2024 minimum for a 3-credit course is \$3,500

2024-2025 minimum for a 3-credit course is \$4,000

2025-2026 minimum for a 3-credit course is \$4,500

2026-2027 minimum for a 3-credit course is \$5,500

## Legislative Action

### UUP Legislative Action

#### UUP 2024 Advocacy Days

If you are interested in attending the UUP 2024 Advocacy Days, [sign up](#) and UUP will send a reminder and registration link to you closer to the event. Our Advocacy Days will be March 4-5 in Albany.

Even if you can't make it to Albany your support can make sure UUP is seen and heard at the local and state-wide level by making a VOTE-COPE contribution. **No union dues are used for advocacy, member contributions support our advocacy efforts.** *(Which by the way led to the biggest increase in funding for SUNY in over a decade!)*

- VOTE-COPE funds help protect our collective bargaining rights.
- VOTE-COPE funds give members and students valuable opportunities to deliver UUP's message to legislators by attending advocacy days, in-district meetings/events, and fundraisers.
- VOTE-COPE supports candidates who fight to protect public higher education—our university, our students, our patients, our jobs, and our retirement benefits—regardless of party affiliation.

Learn more about NYSUT VOTE-COPE and UUP PAC including links on how to contribute <https://uupinfo.org/votecope/>



HIGHER ED  
ACTION FUND PAC





Left to right: Carolyn Kube, state-wide UUP VP for Professionals, Shawna Mefferd Kelty, Plattsburgh Chapter VP for Academics, and Kathy Briggs Renadette, UUP Labor Relations Specialist. At the Rally for SUNY Potsdam on Nov. 9, 2023.

## **From Chapter VP for Professionals Gerianne Downs**

### **News from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**

During the meeting of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee at the Fall 2023 Delegates Assembly, members highlighted several priorities for chapters, including making DEI to be a forethought not an afterthought. Among the ways to achieve this were:

- Creating or strengthening (in members) chapter-level UUP DEI committees
- Programming and training for members
- A calendar of events sponsored/facilitated by UUP chapter DEI committee members
- Create a legislative agenda to bring the message to our legislators

They opened the session to questions and comments where several members from across the state discussed their struggles with hiring BIPOC faculty and staff, the need to identify what we mean by diversity and the intersectionality of the many groups that could be classified as diverse, the difficulty students have in confiding and talking to members of the faculty and staff who do not look like them. One member said how BIPOC faculty and staff “end up being used as sounding boards for the BIPOC student population regardless of whether those faculty and staff are involved in the students’ academics or campus lives.” This comment was made during the discussion of hiring a more diverse faculty and staff.

## **From Delegate David Curry**

### **News from the Academic Medical Programs Committee**

The newly reconstituted Academic Medical Programs Committee met at the spring DA under the leadership of co-chairs Redetha Abraham-Nichols of SUNY Downstate and Rich Veenstra of SUNY Upstate. This committee was formed as a standing committee, through the merger of the Health Science Centers Concerns committee, and the Nursing Professions Work Group. The merger occurred through action taken by the statewide executive board just prior to Covid. The timing of the merger, and the subsequent cancellation of a number of DAs led to significant challenges with the operation of this newly constituted committee. At this meeting, after reviewing the mission statement, which can be found on the UUPINFO.org website, the committee discussed the fact that we represent the single largest constituent group in the union. This includes physicians, nurses, physical therapist, social workers, Speech and language pathologists, and a number of various medical laboratory positions to name a few. Further, we represent the faculty members teaching most of those professionals.

Our charge at this meeting was to begin work on a strategic plan for the committee going forward. A rough draft was created, and will be forwarded to the executive board for consideration. In the short term, it was agreed by those members present that we would continue to support a single payer healthcare system whether that be Medicare for All at the federal level or the New York Healthcare Act locally, as the Delegate Assembly has already passed resolutions of support for both in the past.

Stay tuned for more details as they come available. And feel free to direct your questions or comments to me via email at [currydg@verizon.net](mailto:currydg@verizon.net).

## **UUP and How to Join**

United University Professions, UUP, is the nation's largest higher education union, representing the faculty and professional staff of the SUNY system (referred to as professional faculty in the contract). This encompasses the 29 comprehensive, technical, specialized and university centers of SUNY. The 29 campuses are broken into 32 chapters. These chapters include the campuses shown above, as well as separate chapters for Buffalo Health Science Center, Stony Brook Health Science Center and System Administration. UUP is Local 2190 of the statewide union, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and national union, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

If you have not joined UUP yet, or if you need to update your membership, use the link below:

<https://uupunion.org/myuup/Membership/>



UUP Green SUNY Initiative

**Citizens' Climate Lobby**  
supports

**REWIRING AMERICA**

**YOUR SAVINGS**

- INCENTIVES
- TAX CREDITS
- REBATES
- DISCOUNTS

Calculate how  
**YOU** can  
**GO GREEN!**

QR Code

Icons: Solar panel, Light bulb, Recycling bin, Shopping bag, Water drop, Car with leaf.

**Contact your Legislators**



**Support a Green SUNY  
for a Greener NY!**