



MINUTES

UUP Binghamton Executive Board / General Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., UUW 324

Present: R. Andrews, T. Chadha, B. Cornick, P. Doyle, L. Gallagher, C. Ignarri, M. Kelly, P. Knuepfer, D. Kunkel, A. Mathis, B. McGovern, R. Mess, T. Norton, B. Polzin, C. Slocum, D. Stone, A. Wang, M. Weiland

Guests: C. Sielaff, Labor Relations Specialist, N. Alfarano, K. Cummings, N. Eggleston, R. Gross, J. Kiereck, C. Konnick, A. Lee, Y. Li, M. Lorusso, A. Messersmith-Mars, A. Phelps, F. Reichert, P. Valenta, E. Wright

The meeting was called to order at 11:41 a.m. Chapter President Brendan McGovern welcomed all to the November meeting and introduced Ronald Gross, Second Vice President for NYSUT.

Executive Board / General Meeting

1. Approve Minutes from October 9, 2024, Executive Board Meeting (attached)
Courtney Ignarri **MOVED TO APPROVE** the October 9, 2024, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. **SECONDED** by an Executive Board Member. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
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. \$66.00 was collected at the November 13, 2024, meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report (attached) – Alan
Treasurer, Alan Wang reported the Chapter spent money on membership, passed the annual audit, and received the first allocation from Statewide. He added the Chapter is in good standing and asked if there were any questions. Robert Mess **MOVED TO APPROVE** the October Treasurer's Report. **SECONDED** by Peter Knuepfer. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
4. New Business
 - a. Bylaws revision (Brendan / Andre)
Brendan updated the Board on the need for a revision of the Chapter By-Laws, explaining that according to Statewide, Chapter Assistants are not supposed to take Minutes or Notes at meetings. Therefore, there is a need to separate the current Secretary/Treasurer position into two distinct positions: Secretary and Treasurer.

There is also a need to formally include and codify our Chapter's committees to enhance clarity and structure. Andre Mathis explained a vote will not be taken today in order to give Executive Board members time to review and discuss the proposed Chapter By-Laws. A vote by the Executive Board will need to be taken and if the proposed revision of the Chapter By-Laws is approved, it will need to be voted on by our entire membership before January 10 to have it on for the bi-annual elections this spring. As a number of officers' positions are appointed, such as Membership Development Officer, DEI Officer, and Grievance Officer, it was suggested the Board may want to continue the appointment or change these to elected Officers. The UUP Constitution requires the Retiree Officer be elected. Discussion followed, and it was decided that revisions will be made to the Chapter By-Laws and the updated version will be sent to the Executive Board for a vote before the December 11 meeting.

5. President's Report (Brendan)

(See attached President's Report.)

Brendan reported Nicole Alfarano, Patrick Doyle, and Andre Mathis, attended the School-Related Professional (SRP) Leadership Conference held in October. Andre Mathis is a NYSUT SRP Advisory Committee Member and Nicole wrote an article for the Newsletter regarding her attendance. Brendan asked if Nicole and Patrick would like to report on their experience. Nicole said it was a great opportunity to become familiar with what goes on in higher education and the K-12 level, and there were a lot of key points she could take away from it. Patrick stated it was good to see the different sections, as UUP is a slice. He thought the sessions were excellent. Brendan thanked them all for attending, stating he plans to give two awards each year. One to an Academic and one to a Professional active UUP member who serves and provides community work. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please reach out to Brendan.

Patrick Doyle reminded members of the November 21 Happy Hour scheduled from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Ale House on the Vestal Parkway. He added a very nice poster was designed by Marjorie Weiland for this event. He will take it to Print Solutions to have it enlarged and will place it on the sandwich board.

6. Chapter Officers' Report:

a. Vice-President, Academics (Tejpreet)

Vice-President for Academics, Tejpreet Chadha reported she has been interacting with faculty members and hosted a panel for faculty, adding she feels we don't have enough faculty members on the Executive Board and decided to start a faculty meet with Lina Begdache in Health and Wellness Studies. Tejpreet stated Lina began as an adjunct and is now a tenured Associate Professor with a background in nutrition sciences and dietetics. Discussion followed. Renee Andrews asked if this event would include contingent faculty, and Tejpreet said it would and that she would like these to occur once a month via Zoom. Renee stated she would like to help with these events. Tejpreet **MOVED TO APPROVE** \$200 to support this faculty meet for groceries needed for a cooking workshop. **SECONDED** by Peter Knuepfer. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**

- b. Vice-President, Professionals (Troy)
Vice-President for Professionals, Troy Norton reported the College Review Panel and College Committee on Professional Evaluation had an introductory lunch on Wednesday, October 30, which was catered by Food and Fire. He stated the Professional Concerns Committee met on Monday, November 4 and identified four action items/categories: 1) Health provisions (psychiatry, psychology) and will be reaching out to EAP. 2) Collection of data on compensation, hiring, promotion and is thinking of administering annual surveys. 3) Continuation of a What to Do flipbook guide for professional employees. 4) A supervisory guide for what it entails to be a conscientious supervisor. The committee plans to meet during the first week in December. Troy reported article drafts for the semesterly newsletter were due yesterday, and the articles are very much appreciated. He added the plan is to publish the newsletter in December shortly before the holidays. Troy Norton **MOVED TO APPROVE** a \$100 recognition gift to be given to Mac Gunter for his tireless efforts and assistance in copy editing of the Connection Newsletter. **SECONDED** by Tejpreet Chadha. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
- c. Membership Development Officer (Courtney)
Membership Development Officer, Courtney Ignarri reported that things are moving along every other week at our New Employee Orientations, adding this is one of our best opportunities to get new employees right into UUP. She welcomes anyone who would like to join her at NEO's, which are given at 1:00 p.m. every other Thursday. The presentation takes approximately one-half hour.
- d. Officer for Contingents (Renee)
Officer for Contingents, Renee Andrews reported she doesn't have anything right now but is happy to have this upcoming faculty event, so she can connect with more contingents.
- e. Officer for Retirees (Bob)
Officer for Retirees, Robert Mess reported the Fall Semester UUP Retirement Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on December 6. The speaker is Ethan Tyo, who is our Multicultural Research Center Assistant Director of Native American and Indigenous Student Initiatives.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Communications (Kitty, Marjorie, Troy)
Brendan announced that Troy has stepped down from the Communications Committee to focus his time as Chapter Vice President for Professionals and the Chapter Newsletter Connection. Communications Committee Co-Chair, Marjorie Weiland reported she would like to encourage people who have events to let the Committee know so they can get photos, announcements, etc. in the Chapter Notes Newsletter to continue to build and generate all the wonderful things we are doing. If anyone is interested in being on the Committee, it meets bi-weekly on Fridays via Zoom and the link to join is on the UUP Chapter Calendar. She added the more

voices we have, the better things we get. Kitty Cummings reminded members if they have anything they would like added to the UUP Chapter Calendar, to let her know so it can be added for access. Kitty stated she is still working on the website and hopefully it will be a good source of information.

- b. Events & Hospitality (Allie / Aaron)
Events & Hospitality Co-Chair, Allie Messersmith-Mars reported Fall Frolic went well, with approximately 90 people in attendance. She appreciated all the help everyone provided. She heard some people say how grateful they were to have little gift bags and thank you cards given to them. She added Coffee and Breakfast Bites continues to explode with over 100 people attending the November event. Allie stated they ran out of everything, and the event continues to be such a great experience for our members. Kitty Cummings announced a Coffee and Breakfast Bites organizational meeting is held via Zoom the week before the monthly event, and if anyone is interested in assisting, the link is on the UUP Chapter Calendar.
- c. Union Reps (Nick / Courtney)
Nicholas Eggleston reported the Chapter has one more department representative, Allie Lee and introduced her to the Board. He stated the Chapter is trying to build this committee and if anyone is interested, please reach out to him or Courtney.
- d. Labor Education (Fran)
Fran Reichert reported on November 1, members attended the screening of the movie *Union*, held by the Cinema Department. She added although it hasn't come out on any streaming platforms, this was a very special screening that members were able to see. Fran explained the movie was about Amazon and how difficult it is to form a union and even when you succeed there can be setbacks. The next Lunch and Labor meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in UU-121. If anyone would like to attend, email Fran and she will send you the readings.
- e. IDA (Aaron / Brendan)
Aaron Phelps reported that IDA money is out there if anyone wants to apply. He is sending the applications in batches of ten and is going to try and submit some applications by Tuesday. Aaron stated the process is slow as only one person does the review for all applications. He added the chapter is squared away with the COVID funds, so next year the allocation might be a bit lower. If you have any questions, please let Aaron know.
- f. Membership (Courtney /Don)
- g. Outreach (Brendan)
Brendan reported we are looking to lobby effectively and get our legislative agenda approved and get more money for SUNY. There will be lobby days in the spring, and UUP will be working with NYSUT on communications.

8. Chapter Business:

- a. T-Shirts, Apparel (Courtney)
Courtney Ignarri reported the apparel has been received and is ready for pick-up. If members were not able to attend the November 13 meeting, they can pick up their shirt/sweatshirt in the UUP Chapter Office, LSG-516. Courtney added the store is now closed. She also ordered stickers that she will bring to the next meeting and has mugs and water bottles. The goal is visibility and we all might want to wear the shirts/sweatshirts to the next meeting. Brendan thanked Courtney for all of her work on this project.
9. Questions / comments / issues from the floor
10. Special Guest: Ronald Gross - NYSUT Second Vice President
Ronald Gross thanked members for inviting him to speak, stating he was elected to his position in 2020. He added he was born and raised in Mastic Beach, NY and graduated with a degree in teaching social studies from SUNY Cortland in 1988. Small and rural locals' health and safety falls under his umbrella as well as his work with NYSUT retirees, who are responsible for a lot of legislative work, such as knocking on doors and writing postcards. He stated workplace violence is a very big issue, and the Employee Assistance Program is a great resource. NYSUT also has a confidential, free peer support line call center available from noon to 8 p.m., trained by Rutgers University Behavioral Health. Ronald added there is a leadership training project available, which drills you for member engagement. The commitment is three summers in a row for one week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and applications for this training are coming out in December. NYSUT recognizes it will be incredibly challenging going forward and changes will be coming. Ronald stressed that anything you need help with, NYSUT wants to be able to provide, as we have some big issues coming our way. Discussion followed.
11. Announcements
12. David Stone **MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED** by Troy Norton. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m. in The Old Champlain Atrium.