

Statement from the UUP-New Paltz Chapter to President Frederick Kowal, Officers, and the Executive Board

We, the UUP New Paltz Chapter leadership, wish to communicate our frustrations with the position taken by President Fred Kowal in the name of our statewide local regarding the troubling issues raised in recent days about Chancellor Malatras.

We have received multiple emails and have heard comments in campus meetings and in private conversations (including a statement from our Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies department attached) expressing our members' dismay at UUP's statement of support for (now-former) Chancellor Jim Malatras by the statewide local. President Kowal's endorsement of Chancellor Malatras, whatever the internal political calculus behind it, was seen as sharply contradicting the very real experience and concerns of SUNY employees who suffer in their own toxic working environments, undermining their faith in their union to defend them.

As a union we believe our mission to be always, without exception, to advocate for and with our members for the common good and to defend our membership from discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying, and other toxic workplace environments. Many of our members struggle under these conditions right now, even those with permanent or continuing appointment. These conditions—which disproportionately impact contingents, women, LGBTQI, people of color, people with disabilities, and underrepresented groups within our bargaining unit—will not change if we as a union appear willing to accept such behavior from the top leadership of the system. We believe that as a labor union we are here to advocate and defend workers, not bosses, no matter how powerful they may be.

We issue this statement to President Kowal and the elected statewide leadership in order to try to repair any damage done to our members' trust and to maintain their confidence in our Chapter, despite what we believe to have been an error in judgment by the statewide local. We will continue our work to achieve better working conditions for all, and to engage constructively in our all-important statewide negotiations process. We are committed to listening to our rank and file and hope to work with our membership across the state *in union* for a better future for all of us.

In solidarity,

UUP-New Paltz Chapter
Executive Committee



New Paltz Chapter

[facstaf-l] Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department Calls for the Immediate Resignation of Chancellor Malatras

facstaf-l-bounces <facstaf-l-bounces@newpaltz.edu>

on behalf of

Jessica Pabon <pabonj@newpaltz.edu>

Tue 12/7/2021 9:55 AM

To: facstaf-l <facstaf-l@newpaltz.edu>

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We, the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department faculty at SUNY New Paltz believe survivors.

As professors of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, we teach SUNY students how to challenge rape culture, resist victim blaming, and identify gaslighting.

As advocates for sexual assault and harassment survivors—and in some cases, as survivors ourselves—we work tirelessly every day to build a survivor-centered culture on and off campus, one which empower survivors by prioritizing their rights, needs, and wishes.

We are disappointed and dismayed that the SUNY Board of Trustees and UUP leadership would choose to support Chancellor Malatras despite evidence provided by Attorney General Letitia James of his denigrating comments about Lindsay Boylan with former Governor Andrew Cuomo.

On December 6th, 2021, Boylan tweeted that Chancellor Malatras “has not apologized to [her and] continues to lie about his actions. He retaliated against [her] when [she] spoke up about a toxic environment.”

What message did the UUP President Frederick E. Kowal and the SUNY Board of Trustees send to survivors—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—when they chose to excuse Malatras' behavior? Indeed, what message has been sent to prospective students about the SUNY system's stance when it comes to sexual harassment?

Chancellor Malatras is a powerful man and accountability for the harm caused here means losing access to that power. Chancellor Malatras must resign.