



## MINUTES

UUP Binghamton Executive Board / General Meeting  
Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Old Champlain Atrium

Present: T. Chadha, T. Chronopoulos, R. Collier, B. Cornick, P. Doyle, C. Gelderloos, F. Goldman, R. Harrison, C. Ignarri, M. Kelly, A. Mathis, B. McGovern, A. Morris, K. Mousseau, T. Norton, B. Polzin, C. Slocum, J. Starks, A. Wang, M. Weiland

Guests: C. Sielaff, Labor Relations Specialist, N. Alfarano, K. Cummings, N. Eggleston, M. Fabrizio, J. Kiereck, C. Konnick, L. Manley, A. Messersmith-Mars, J. Obie, A. Phelps, F. Reichert, M. Vinluan

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. Chapter President Brendan McGovern welcomed all to the October meeting.

1. Approve Minutes from September 11, 2024, Executive Board Meeting (attached)  
Andre Mathis **MOVED TO APPROVE** September 11, 2024, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. **SECONDED** by Courtney Ignarri. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** (15 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN)
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. \$21.00 was collected at the October 9, 2024, meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report (attached) – Alan  
Treasurer, Alan Wang reported the Chapter is spending money, adding he submitted the end of the year audit to Statewide in mid-September. He is waiting to hear back from Statewide regarding the audit. Courtney Ignarri **MOVED TO APPROVE** the September Treasurer's Report. **SECONDED** by Troy Norton. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** (15 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN)
4. New Business
  - a. The purchase of five \$25 gift cards from the UUP chapter for the University Wide Benefits Fair. (Linda)  
Fran Goldman **MOVED TO APPROVE** the purchase of five \$25 gift cards to be given to UUP members as door prizes at the November 14, 2024, University Wide Benefits Fair. **SECONDED** by Courtney Ignarri. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.**
5. President's Report (Brendan)  
(See attached President's Report.)
6. Chapter Officers' Report:
  - a. Vice-President, Academics (Tejpreet)

Vice-President for Academics, Tejpreet Chadha reported although few academics attended, an Academic Concerns meeting was held on October 1 and a major problem is departments and schools have different expectations and formulas. She added there is no transparency with regards to workload, tenure, lecturers, adjuncts, etc, urging the Chapter to build up a community. Tejpreet explained although Alli has done a wonderful job with Coffee and Breakfast Bites, not many academics attend due to the timing of these events, stating we need to gather them together in order to bring about any changes. Tejpreet suggested the organization of a faculty forum type of event to get good ideas from one department to another, adding Rosemary Collier sent her some PowerPoints so she could get an idea of how things work across campus. Tejpreet explained as the union is the voice, there needs to be an effort by the union to bring this kind of solidarity and she will be working on this effort.

b. Vice-President, Professionals (Troy)

Vice-President for Professionals, Troy Norton reported a Professional Concerns meeting was held at noon on October 1, which led to a great and robust discussion. Policy, hiring, and backfilling of positions all the way to the value of employees was discussed. Troy added he has done some work to comply as well as some organizing on these issues and will follow up with attendees. If anyone is interested in joining Troy, please send him an email at [tnorton@binghamton.edu](mailto:tnorton@binghamton.edu). He announced an informal luncheon meeting with members of the College Review Panel and the College Committee on Professional Evaluation is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30 in UUW-325. Troy stated the College Review Panel will be charged quickly after the meeting as there are cases pending. Brendan added the Chapter has received about four cases, adding five or six years ago it was rare to get a case. He explained that Donald Kunkel established training for members to advocate for themselves in January and June if their supervisor did not do so. Since then, the Chapter has seen an increase in cases.

c. Membership Development Officer (Courtney)

Membership Development Officer, Courtney Ignarri reported a New Employee Orientation (NEO) is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 1:00 p.m., adding only ten people are expected to attend, so hiring seems to be slowing down a little bit. She explained some of these new employees have never been part of a union before, so she is reaching out to them a month or so after they begin. After sending an email to approximately 130 new employees, Courtney received about 45 responses thanking her for checking in, asking questions such as when will I get my dental insurance card, and a few meetings have come out of her attempt to connect with new employees. Employees with questions regarding dental and vision should contact the UUP Benefit Trust Fund for assistance.

d. Officer for Contingents (Renee)

Officer for Contingents, Renee Andrews did not attend so no report was given.

e. Officer for Retirees (Bob)

Brendan stated due to illness, Robert Mess was unable to attend but he asked Brendan to report that a fall/winter retiree meeting is being planned for some time in

November. Robert is also working on a survey to be sent to retirees asking them why they retired.

7. Committee Reports:

a. Communications (Kitty, Marjorie, Troy)

Marjorie Weiland reported that the Communications Committee is going well and continues to email the *Chapter Notes Newsletter* which contains information that can be printed out and placed on bulletin boards. She asked if a bulletin board is needed in your area and/or anyone is interested in joining the committee, to contact her. Troy Norton added he is hoping to publish the semester Newsletter *Connection* in December. He is looking for authors to write articles on Chapter events, town halls, national news, and other topics. Please email Troy if you are interested in writing an article. Kitty Cummings announced the Chapter is still looking for someone to assist with the *owl*, which would allow us to hold Executive Board/General Meetings online as well as in person. This would entail someone picking up the *owl* from Sara Oliveira at the Center for Learning and Teaching and setting it up on a laptop. It is an hour and a half, once a month commitment. If anyone is interested, please contact Kitty.

b. Events & Hospitality (Allie)

Allie Messersmith-Mars reported 88 people signed the attendance sheet at the October Coffee and Breakfast Bites event, although she believes there were closer to 100 people who attended. She added there was no food, coffee, or tea left over after the event. Allie stated as this was her last Coffee and Breakfast Bites, she is looking for assistance from people to pick up items at Sams Club, bagels, donuts, coffee, etc. Brendan stated he would be willing to pick up the breakfast pizzas. Aaron Phelps, Casey Slocum, and Kitty Cummings all agreed to assist. It was decided a Zoom meeting will be scheduled early in the week before Coffee and Breakfast Bites to coordinate these monthly events. Kitty will set up the Zoom link and put it on the Chapter calendar. Brendan added Allie has agreed to quarterback.

c. Union Reps (Nick / Courtney)

Nicholas Eggleston announced the Chapter is still looking for union representatives. If anyone is interested, please contact him at [negglest@binghamton.edu](mailto:negglest@binghamton.edu).

d. Labor Education (Fran)

Fran Reichert reported Lunch and Labor will be held in person from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on October 16 in UU 121. She encouraged people to come and bring their lunches. If interested, please contact her so she can place you on the email list to receive the readings. The Cinema Department will be showing a labor-themed movie on Friday, November 1. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Fran know.

e. IDA (Aaron / Brendan)

IDA Coordinator, Aaron Phelps reported we have an allocation for 2024-2025, although in 2025-2026 it may start to look a little bit smaller, as we still have money left from COVID. He reminded members that they can receive up to \$2,000 for two different events, split however they would like. He urged applicants to keep every receipt they have and to remember to fill out a Request and Authorization for Travel form (R&A) in advance of a trip. Aaron stated faculty are allowed funds for

publication material, but travel is more cut and dry, adding if you want to buy a physical item it must be consumable. If anyone has questions regarding the IDA process or is interested in being on the IDA review board, please talk with Aaron.

8. Chapter Business:
  - a. T-Shirts, Apparel (Courtney)  
Courtney Ignarri reported the deadline to request a free shirt is over, but if members contact her today, she can put the request in. She added 24 orders are needed for this to go through. Orders forms were distributed to the tables, and Courtney explained if members would like to order shirts, to scan the QR code.
9. New business/questions/comments/issues from the floor
10. Discussion: Evaluating and Enhancing Chapter Engagement
  - a. *Overview of Current Engagement*: Reflect on UUP Statewide President Fred Kowal's observations during his recent visit, where he highlighted our chapter's evolution from a quiet chapter to one that has become increasingly active.
  - b. *Assessing Current Engagement*: Discuss our chapter's current engagement strategies and initiatives. What's working well? Are there areas where we can improve?
  - c. *Identifying Growth Opportunities*: Explore specific ideas and strategies for increasing member involvement. How can we further energize our chapter and ensure that engagement continues to grow?
  - d. *Action Steps*: Establish concrete actions and assign responsibilities for initiatives aimed at boosting engagement, with a focus on sustainable long-term growth.

Discussion followed regarding Evaluating and Enhancing Chapter Engagement. Meetings are open to everyone. Coffee and Breakfast Bites, Academic and Professional Concerns Committees, the bi-weekly Chapter Notes Newsletter, bulletin boards, department union reps, building up membership, new contract surveys, Faculty Forum, Fall Frolic. What issues are most important to our members and how do we provide opportunities for members to tell us what the problems are in their areas. Brendan announced he has reached out to the Cinema Department regarding potential union-themed movie nights to get more members active or get more information on how to be part of the union. He stated the Cinema Department is holding a movie night November 1-3, with the movie *Union*. Fran Reichert explained tickets to this event are \$4.00. Because Lunch and Labor has a budget, she suggested tickets be provided for the Friday evening show and asked people to contact her if they are interested in attending.

11. Announcements
12. Patrick Doyle **MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECONDED** by Troy Norton. **MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT.** Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11/13 at 11:30 a.m. in UUW-324.**