



Below are statements by the candidates running for UUP chapter officer positions. Please take the time to read the statements and educate yourself regarding the candidate's positions and qualifications. The candidates are separated by office and are listed alphabetically within that group. Expect ballots to arrive by 3/24/25 at your address of record. Only members before the certification date of 12/10/24 are eligible to vote and will receive ballots.

Candidates for President and Delegate

Bruce Kube



Colleagues,

Experience matters! What is experience? Performing service for the members. Not merely being one. I have invested over 30 years in learning from and serving members of all categories. It's a privilege to serve as President of the Stony Brook Health Sciences Chapter of UUP since 2021, and I am honored to seek re-election and ask for your vote. My commitment to UUP and Stony Brook HSC spans my employment here, with active involvement at both the chapter and statewide levels since 1991. Throughout this time, I have dedicated myself to advocating for faculty and professional staff, strengthening our chapter, and ensuring your voices are heard.

Significant Accomplishments Over the Past Term:

- Secured new full and part-time lines and credit for past accruals for per diems in non-per diem roles after 7/1/19.
- Negotiated monetary overtime compensation instead of comp time in multiple departments.
- Prevented the addition of subjective iCARE values to performance programs or evaluations.
- Ensured holiday pay or accruals per contract for professional staff and our providers.
- Compelled administration to process overdue permanent appointments.
- Ensured timely and accurate performance programs.
- Fought for and achieved market salary analyses in many departments.
- Representing members in disciplinary disputes since 2013.
- Continuing the fight for fair parking rates for our members.
- Stipend payments for chief residents.
- Many others that are personally significant to the affected members.

I first became a unionist as a member of the Mason Tenders Union Local 79 in NYC, where I saw firsthand the power of collective action. Joining UUP in 1991, I quickly took on leadership roles, building relationships and educating myself about UUP. Much of our success comes from these relationships—both locally and statewide. Over the years, I have worked tirelessly for our members, sacrificing nights and weekends to fight for job security, salary increases, and fair treatment. While not every battle is won, my deep knowledge of the UUP contract and Board of Trustees policies has helped me make a real difference.

I take pride in my ability to be an innovative problem solver. I have also mentored and empowered members to advocate for themselves, as the most powerful advocate for an individual is their own voice. However, no one fights alone; with 5,000+ Stony Brook HSC members and 40,000 statewide, we are stronger together. I embrace a team approach, ensuring my officers have the knowledge and support they need to lead. I firmly believe in my team!

A key part of our team is our elected delegates. They play a vital role in guiding chapter leadership, shaping statewide policy, and ensuring communication between members and leadership. Their responsibility is critical in directing the chapter's focus and advocating for member concerns. I rely on their input to run the chapter effectively.

Communication is paramount, which is why I have always maintained an open-door policy. I extended office hours to cover all three shifts and remain flexible to meet members' needs. I look forward to continuing this work and bringing my extensive experience and knowledge to serve you, the membership!

In solidarity and service!
Bruce Kube

Lauren Storc-Garrett



2025: A CLEAN SLATE. A STRONGER UNION.

It's time to REBOOT and REVITALIZE our union! Fresh leadership, new energy, and a clear vision can bring the change we need. I'm Lauren Storc-Garrett, and I'm running for President of the Stony Brook HSC UUP Chapter because I believe in a stronger, more engaged, and more effective union.

2025 is our opportunity to start fresh, build momentum, and create a union that truly works for us all.

Why Me? Experience That Drives Change.

- ✓ 30+ years at Stony Brook Medicine – Deep institutional knowledge and dedication.
- ✓ Proven Leadership – Managing operations for 300+ medical practices as a Team Lead in Medical Managed Care.
- ✓ Union Advocate – 25 years UUP member, 11 years as a UUP Delegate, 4 years as VP for Professionals, 4 years as UUP Grievance Officer, 11 years on the Executive Board.
- ✓ Master's in Employee Relations & HR Management (SUNY Stony Brook) + advanced certifications in Risk/Compliance, HR, and Healthcare Management.
- ✓ Committed to Service – 15+ years volunteering for Veteran organizations and serving the Port Jefferson American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

Why Now? Because We Can Do More.

- ✓ Stronger Member Engagement – Let's rebuild enthusiasm, increase participation, and ensure every voice is heard.
- ✓ Better Workplace Protections & Benefits – Job security, fair contracts, and improved working conditions must be priorities.
- ✓ Clear Communication & Transparency – Leadership should be accessible, accountable, and responsive to all members.

This election is a chance to re-energize our union with leadership that listens, takes action, and truly represents its members.

2025: A Fresh Start Begins with You.

- Show up. Speak up. Get involved.
- Vote for leadership that listens and leads with integrity.
- Together, we can build a UUP that works for everyone.
- A clean slate starts with this election. Let's take the union to the next level in 2025!
- Got questions? Let's talk!
- UUPLaurenStorcGarrett@gmail.com
- VOTE for a stronger future. VOTE for real progress.

In Solidarity!

Lauren Storc-Garrett

Candidate for Vice President for Academics and Delegate

Stephen Walker



I have been a UUP academic delegate for over a decade and have made a point to attend every delegate assembly. The union, through collective bargaining and defending members' contractual rights, is important for both professional and academic members. Most academic members who reach out to the SBU HSC UUP Chapter for assistance, more than often, tell me that they never thought, as a faculty member, that they would need the union's help with a workplace problem. That is why we all need to be active and engaged members. Without support from all faculty, the union will no longer be able to negotiate with the state to produce the benefits

we all share in our current and future contracts. As an active member of the statewide grievance committee, I have seen firsthand the union, through collective strength, correct injustices done to our members. I am asking you to reelect me as chapter vice president for academics. I also invite you to become involved with our union; it is to your advantage because currently academia has never been under more pressure what we have witnessed in the past few months. As a united union, we can lobby governments, both state and federal, to ensure that future generations can afford a publicly supported education so that they can enjoy a prosperous future that higher education provides.

Candidates for Vice President for professionals and Delegate

Glen Itzkowitz



Glen Itzkowitz for UUP HSC Vice President for Professional

I write to you as a candidate for UUP-HSC Vice President for Professionals. I am a 27+ year UUP HSC member, and delegate from the School of Medicine. I have worked for the Office of the Dean of Medicine as a professional staff member since 1998. I hold BA from Queens College, and two Master's Degrees from Stony Brook University, including a Master's in Business Administration. For nearly 20 years I served my community as a fire fighter. For the last 10 years, I have been on the Board of Directors for the St James Fire Department. Organizing and leading teams is something that I am very comfortable with.

You are my UUP brothers and sisters. We are the lifeblood of this institution. We are leaders, problem solvers, opportunity creators. We get the job done, everyday! We make this happen while looking out for our patients, staff, students, and faculty. Now we now need to start looking out for each other.

During the last 18 months, our union (locally and statewide) has become divided. Statewide, our elected UUP leaders have taken highly charged, one-sided positions in their communications. This creates an imbalance for many of us. Closer to home, at Stony Brook, some members are actively working against their fellow UUP members. Imagine the pain for some that comes from colleagues, weakening us from the inside out. We must not allow ourselves to become vulnerable, exploitable, or frail. And so, we cannot continue this way.

Last year, with your support, I ran and was elected to the to serve in the University Senate on behalf of HSC. That vote secured two very important positions for us. These are, my service on behalf of UUP HSC in the University Senate Executive Board, as well as the SUNY Faculty Senate more broadly. I have been vocal in all three of these august bodies in an effort to heal and rebalance issues we face.

My 5 Pledges to You:

- 1) *As your VP for Professionals*, I will continue to work tirelessly ensuring our value is recognized by leadership and our solidarity remains strong. I will, as I always have, speak up to fix what is broken. This applies to working across our union as well. The time to repair our union is now. The time to heal our union is now. In healing, we will grow stronger.
- 2) *As your VP for Professionals*, we will stop jeopardizing our fellow members by supporting politically motivated reviews and investigations into UUP-staffed units. This is non-negotiable.
- 3) *As your VP for Professionals*, we will push back against the rehiring our vacancies as Management Confidential instead of filling union positions. This is non-negotiable.
- 4) *As your VP for Professionals*, we will educate our members on their contract. Their knowledge is our shared power.
- 5) *As your VP for Professionals*, we will make sure our statewide leadership knows their positions must represent all of us, not just some of us. Unions are built by members to unite and protect us, dividing us will not be tolerated. We are what makes Stony Brook great. We need leadership that represents all of us, unapologetically and with confidence.

Now is the time to stand as one! **UUP Strong**

Adam Riddick



Dear colleagues,

My name is Adam Riddick. I am a twenty-plus-year employee of SUNY Stonybrook and a proud union member for as many years. My career in state service began at Stonybrook University Medical Center. My union activism began in the same place. I knew the importance of having a union before I began working for Stonybrook but it was at Stonybrook that I developed a passion for activism. In 2004 shortly after my arrival, there was a protest on Nichols Road in front of the

hospital. I took my break, got a shirt, and began walking the line. It was such a good feeling displaying my union pride, standing with my union brothers and sisters, and chanting in unison. I continued throughout my years to support by union in whatever way called upon. After a change in union leadership that left me feeling unsupported, I decided to run for office in 2017. I was elected to my first term as a vice president of CSEA Local 614 Stonybrook, something I am still very proud of to this day. I have held the office of Vice President, Executive Vice President, and Treasurer. In these roles, I became familiar with the ins and outs of unionism and Employee Labor Relations both at the Stonybrook level and the State level. I have represented members during interrogations, grievances, and probation termination hearings for over seven years. I have represented my local in Employee/Management meetings as well as representing all Stonybrook Employees through a coalition formed to combat the parking crisis. I have developed relationships with fellow union members and leaders across contract lines. It has been my pleasure to serve as an officer in the union that represented and served me and now that I am represented by UUP it will be a pleasure to serve my brothers and sisters in UUP in the same fashion.

If elected

- I will work with the leaders to create a positive environment for all professional employees.
- Work tirelessly for professional recognition for the work that they do.
- Fight back against excessive uncompensated workload.

I humbly ask for the honor to represent the professional UUP members in our Health Sciences Center chapter.

Candidates for Treasurer

Dawn Frick



I have been employed by Stony Brook Medicine for five years, where I have had the privilege of serving in the Managed Care Department as a member of the Managed Care Enrollment Team. My duties include enrolling providers with the managed care payers and maintaining their enrollment, so patients are able to seek care under their health insurance.

Prior to Stony Brook I worked as a Provider Enrollment Specialist at Catholic Health Long Island and as a Unit Clerk at Good Samaritan Hospital. Prior to that I worked in the insurance industry for many years until I decided to switch careers into the healthcare industry.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Finance and International Business from Penn State University and a Master of Healthcare Administration from Kaplan University.

Let's shake it up and elect fresh leadership that has a wealth of experience and ideas that will benefit us all. There is nothing to lose but everything to gain.

The time is now!

Why Now?

"Growth means change and change involves risks, stepping from the known to the unknown." ~George Shinn

I know Stony Brook is where I want to be until retirement, and with at least 20 years to go I want to become more involved. I am detail-oriented, reliable, and have excellent communication, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. This, along with my degree in Finance, makes me an excellent candidate for Treasurer. As a delegate I look forward to learning and growing into a member that can facilitate positive change. My extensive background in customer service has given me listening, communication and interpersonal skills that can help power our union. My goal is to build confidence and trust amongst our members and promote mutual support.

Deirdre Severson



Deirdre Severson
Position: Treasurer and Delegate
Department: Laboratory Administration

Dear Fellow UUP Members:

I am asking for your consideration and support to cast your vote for me as Chapter Treasurer and Professional Delegate.

I have worked at Stony Brook University Hospital for eight years with increasing levels of responsibility. In my current role, I am the Office Coordinator for Laboratory Administration, working collaboratively with Department of Labs administrative, clinical and technical staff, as well as multiple departments and individuals throughout the hospital.

My current responsibilities include preparation of departmental and personnel budgets and capital requests, cash accounts, quality assurance and inspection preparation. Prior to working here, I maintained my company's fundraising account. If elected, this expertise will help UUP HSC continue our historical record of accuracy and fiscal responsibility.

I became more actively involved in our union due to concerns about parking. I saw that just voicing my opinion was not enough; I needed to become more active and involved.

UUP HSC Local Involvement:

- Assisted in establishment of and served as Chair of the ad hoc Parking Committee
- Continue to advocate for all members by serving on the Parking Negotiations team, trying to ensure we maintain a reasonable parking rate. This battle is ongoing
- Proud to serve as a Professional Delegate, representing our members and ensuring our voice is heard
- Actively participate in the Chapter Executive Board meetings
- Volunteer to assist in our chapter events, helping whenever I can
- Member of The Professional Concerns Committee, IDA Committee and am the sole UUP HSC Chapter representative on the Employee Assistance Program Committee
- Department Representative for the Department of Labs, helping to relay important information to our members
- Elected to serve on the College Committee for Professional Evaluation
- Member of the New Employee Orientation team: orientating our newest members

UUP Statewide Involvement:

- Member of the Constitution and Governance Committee
- Member of the Membership Committee

I believe in doing what's best for the organization and its stakeholders no matter how hard or complicated. This is a key ideal for anyone who chooses to serve.

I have looked for and taken every opportunity to serve in varied capacities and will continue my dedication to our union and you, our members.

I have shown you my commitment and hope that you will vote for me for UUP HSC Chapter Treasurer and Professional Delegate. Thank you.

In Solidarity,
Deirdre Severson

Candidate for Secretary

Catherine Gropper

I bring a wealth of experience from my administrative roles at Stony Brook University, along with a long-standing commitment to volunteer leadership and service. This combination of professional expertise and volunteer dedication makes me a strong candidate for the position of secretary of the union.

Currently, I serve as the Assistant to the Chair of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program, where I manage the admissions process, coordinate events, and support our faculty. Additionally, I am an active member of the UUP Executive Board's Membership Committee, serve as a delegate and have previously served on the College Review Panel and the ad hoc member engagement committee. Since 2017, I have been a Professional-at-Large Senator in the University Senate.

My leadership experience extends to multiple roles within the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), where I've served as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Historian. I've also shown my leadership through various positions with the Girl Scouts of Suffolk County, including Service Unit Treasurer, Registrar, Troop Organizer, and Troop Leader.

With my dedication to service and strong organizational and administrative skills, I believe I am highly qualified for the role of secretary of the union.

-Cathy

Candidate for Membership Development Officer

Melissa Vargas



Dear Colleagues,

I'm running to serve you and help build a better future for all of us. I understand the challenges we face working in the Health Sciences Center, and I believe our strength lies in coming together as one team.

I am committed to listening to your concerns, fighting for fair working conditions, and making sure our voices are heard. My goal is to support every member and work with you to create a workplace where we are respected and valued. I have dedicated my career to advancing patient care and operational excellence, with a strong foundation built at

Stony Brook Hospital. Beginning in patient access, I ensured every patient received a warm welcome and seamless scheduling, and later, as a genetic counseling administrative assistant, I supported both patients and counselors through efficient coordination and clear communication. My journey in healthcare is fueled by a passion for service, continuous learning, and a commitment to integrity and collaboration. Beyond my professional roles, I am driven by the belief that every voice matters, and I strive to empower our community through transparent, principled leadership.

Thank you for your support. Let's work together to make our hospital a better place for everyone.

In solidarity,

Melissa Vargas
Administrative Assistant
Pediatric/ Genetic Counseling

Candidate for Officer for Contingents

Daniel Braun



Dear UUP Stony Brook HSC Members,

I am honored to announce my candidacy for reelection as Officer for Contingents. Despite joining mid-term, I have worked diligently to address the unique challenges faced by our contingent faculty and professional staff. I am eager to continue this important work.

Our Achievements:

- **Job Security:** Successfully advocated for improved contract terms and longer-term appointments.
- **Enhanced Benefits:** Fought for equitable access to health insurance, retirement plans, and professional development opportunities.
- **Fair Compensation:** Worked towards pay parity and ensured fair wages for all contingent members.
- **Amplified Your Voice:** Created regular forums to hear and represent your concerns effectively.
- **Inclusion:** Ensured contingent staff are integrated into decision-making processes.

My Vision for the Future:

As your Officer, I plan to:

1. **Strengthen Advocacy:** Build alliances to amplify our collective voice.
2. **Improve Communication:** Enhance channels to keep you informed about chapter and union activities.
3. **Support Professional Development:** Provide more opportunities tailored to contingent staff needs.
4. **Address Emerging Issues:** Stay proactive in addressing new challenges.

My Commitment:

If reelected, I will hold virtual "office" hours, regularly update you on initiatives, and collaborate closely with other officers to keep contingent issues at the forefront.

I believe a strong contingent workforce is crucial to our institution's success. By supporting and empowering our contingent colleagues, we strengthen our entire community. I humbly ask for your continued support and the opportunity to serve another term.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Braun

Revenue Specialist for Stony Brook Patient Account Department

Chair for the Individual Development Awards Committee

Member of UUP Statewide Contingent Employment Committee, Constitution and Governance Committee, and Academic Medical Committee

AFT / NYSUT Affiliate Representative

UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter

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