

Minutes

The UUP Veterans Committee

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 23, 2021

Members in attendance: William Borgstede and Justin Culkowski: Co-Chairs of the Committee; Kevin Moriarty, Stu L'Hommedieu, Michael Knee, Brittany Profit-Rheinwald, Lisa Marie Anselmi-Iason to the Committee, Dan Ryan, Richard Celli, Lizette Rivera, Michael Canders, Barbara Warkentine, Michael Carbone, Gary Wickham, Cristian Balan, Sarah Battaglia, Catherine Gropper, David Scholl (Tom Hogle had car problems and was not able to attend. It was later learned that Bob Kasprak had died and Ed Hines had resigned from the Committee.)

The meeting was called to order at noon by Justin C.

Justin welcomed the committee and thanked members for taking the time to attend. He thanked Jeri O'Bryan-Losee for helping to get the meeting together and had special thanks for Cristian Balan who set up the Zoom format and who was "hosting" the meeting. Members were then invited to introduce themselves. Eighteen members in attendance was perhaps a record.

He then gave an overview of UUP and how Committees were to function. He reiterated the priorities for the Committee per his earlier email to the membership. The number one priority was to identify and resolve any problems faced by veterans who belong to UUP in the workplace. Number two has taken on added importance as we need to promote UUP to keep and obtain new members in UUP. Finally, the Veterans Committee should assist all veterans but UUP employees and students of SUNY in particular.

He then recounted the subcommittees of the Veterans Committee:

1. Website maintenance and improvement headed up by Mike Knee
2. Honor Cord Distribution chaired by Tom Hogle.
3. NYC Veterans Day Parade Presence chaired by Kevin Moriarty
4. Fund Raising for Veterans Causes chaired by Barbara Warkentine
5. Veterans Committee Promotion chaired by Justin Culkowski

Justin urged everyone to participate in these sub-committees. He then asked the membership what was happening on the individual campuses regarding veterans. Several events and activities were discussed. Lizette Rivera and Dan Ryan are in charge of veterans offices on their respective campuses.

The idea of new projects was raised and Justin noted an article he had read about Syracuse University and its outreach to veterans. He proposed some sort of signs that would identify veterans working on SUNY campuses so they could assist other veterans, particularly students. The signs would identify UUP . and Justin will contact UUP to see if some artwork can be made to produce some prototypes of

signs/stickers for use by SUNY employees who are veterans. Dan Ryan noted an effort at Buffalo to put student veterans in touch with employee veterans so this effort may have support

Justin also suggested members take pictures of themselves on campus in any veteran activities.

Sarah Battaglis offered to write articles to promote the Committee and Cristian Balan suggested that any in-person DA meetings could be broadcast via a laptop and camera to those who could not attend.

The meeting ended at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Culkowski

Co-Chair