

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS - BROCKPORT CHAPTER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday October 1st 2025, Seymour Union 220, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Attendance: Susan Orr, Tracy Feaster, Brittany Profit-Rheinwald, Sara Di Donato, Erin Hildebrand, Anne Panning, Elizabeth Gregory, Hunter Lincoln, Scott Haines, Ning Yu, Mike Smith, Elizabeth Morton, Joseph Cochran, Ruth Childs, Jie Zhang, Dave Abwender, John Perevich, Jay Haywood, Bob Schnieder, Michael Ray, Francis Dearing, Garrett Roe, Joe Torre, Tom McDermott, Matt Althouse, Danny Too, Matt Kotula, Mariel Rivera, Milo Obourn

I. Approval of Minutes for 10/1/25

- a. Motion to approve: Sara DiDonato, 2nd: Jie Zhang, Motion Majority Passed

II. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion to approve: Garrett Roe, 2nd: Tracy Feaster, Motion Majority Passed

III. Welcome New VPP Garrett Roe

IV. Old Business

- a. Feedback on September LM meeting - for details please see notes that were circulated.
- b. Feedback on September U2 social – great attendance (circa 20) and 1 new member!

V. Reports

- a. Officers

i. VP for Academics: Sara DiDonato

1. There is discussion on the use of AI and its impact on our labor. If there are any concerns or insights you can share, please contact Sara: sdidonat@brockport.edu so she can share information with Statewide as this is being looked at.
2. There is also a study led by The Future of Higher Ed Committee on adjuncts and contingent faculty, have you noticed any big changes in your departments regarding increases/decreases etc.? If so, please contact Sara so she can share any insights.

ii. VP for Professionals: Garrett Roe

1. Communication: VPP Email - Requested an email account with UUP Statewide to obtain a separate email account for Union business and matters. Until then, please don't hesitate to contact Garrett via his groe@brockport.edu address.
2. Attending Statewide VPP Meetings - First one was 9/16.
3. Consideration of a future Professionals Workplace Survey - looking into what the survey entails, when and how this can be best promoted, and how can we effectively use this data on campus. No

earlier than the spring 2026 semester for potential release and considering survey fatigue.

4. Attending Negotiations Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee Meeting representing Brockport Professionals - responsible for compiling and presenting the concerns of the membership to the Negotiations Committee for consideration. October 9-10 and other meetings as scheduled.
5. Attending Fall Delegate Assembly October 24-25 - Looking forward to the presentations, in particular the College Review Panel and A-28 Committees, Labor Relations Specialist sessions, and hearing how other campuses are faring.
6. Upcoming Town Hall Meetings - Coffee with Garrett.

iii. Membership Development: Kelly Cary /Brit Profit Rheinwald

1. Membership is going well, we are getting a lot of people signing up!

iv. REOC: Sheryl Gonzalez- Could not make the meeting, sent word she had no report.

v. Treasurer: Danny Too

1. The Audit was completed from April to August, and sent in. So, the Chapter will receive the allocation check.

vi. VP for Contingents: Matt Kotula

1. Wanted everyone to be aware of student scholarship - Steve Street Scholarship: [Information and Application](#)
2. Also, awards for contingent faculty - Faye Samuel and Anne Wiegard awards. They recognize extraordinary service to UUP by full-time contingents, and part-time contingents, respectively.

b. LRS Jamie Giulian Report- Unable to attend due to scheduling conflict.

c. Chapter Assistant's Report

- i. Please be patient while we update the website for more functionality. You can always encourage your colleagues to email the Chapter brockport@uupmail.org if they need anything! While we are working on things please keep an eye out for emails!
- ii. The next social is in Brown on Wednesday October 8th noon-1:30!
- iii. Please encourage your colleagues to sign up for our workshop on "Know your right" with our LRS on October 29th @ noon over zoom: Sign ups are [here](#)

d. Presidents Report

- i. **Legislative Town Halls** – raise your voice and let UUP know what you would like us to advocate for during the legislative season. There will be two opportunities to join: **Wednesday, October 15th at 6 pm and Tuesday, October 28th at noon**. To sign up, please click [here](#). If you're not able to attend but would like to submit your legislative proposals – click [here](#).

- ii. **Protecting Academic Freedom in Turbulent Times**

The work of higher education is under threat like never before. Join your union to discuss recent attacks on academic freedom at colleges and universities in the U.S. and to review the specific contractual protections that cover UUP employees who teach and engage in research. While there will be some repeat content from this past winter's Academic Freedom sessions, members are encouraged to attend again (or for the first time!) to discuss recent developments. All UUP members are welcome; the session will cover many items that pertain most immediately to academic members, but insofar as the defense of academic freedom is about protecting the integrity of Higher Ed institutions as a whole, professionals are welcome to attend.

[CLICK HERE to register.](#)

- iii. **No Kings Events**

On **October 18**, communities across the nation will unite for **No Kings Day**, a day of action dedicated to defending the freedoms that uphold our democracy.

This day is about standing firm for the values that unite us. In a time when diverse ideas and perspectives are increasingly under attack, we stand firm in our belief that **the freedom to speak, teach, research and learn without fear of retribution** is essential to the integrity of our democracy and our institutions of higher learning.

This is a peaceful, people-powered movement calling for a future where every voice is heard, every idea can be expressed, and every individual can live and work with dignity and freedom. Together, we can ensure that our academic institutions and communities remain places of open inquiry, debate, and freedom of thought.

We invite you to participate by attending an event or amplifying the message online. If you are planning on joining an event – please register with UUP [HERE](#) and **we will register you with the No Kings location of your choosing. If you have already registered directly with the official No Kings Day event, please also register through this UUP registration link.** Registering with UUP will ensure that we can coordinate, share signs,

and support one another at these actions. Together, we can defend the freedoms that form the foundation of our shared values.

If you are speaking at an event and would like talking points, please reach out to UUP Communications Director, Mike Lisi (mlisi@uupmail.org).

Key Tools and Resources:

Visit [HERE](#) to learn more and sign up. *Visit the No Kings website for a full list of locations.*

Print fliers to share information about registering for the upcoming events [HERE](#).

UUP No Kings Day signs (18x12) can be found [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#).

Download **AFT's No Kings Toolkit**, which includes information about No Kings, graphics for signs and social media, sample social media posts and a searchable events database [HERE](#).

The **No Kings website** can be found [HERE](#).

- iv. Feedback regarding Title II compliance – Chapter president has heard from members concerned about Title II compliance, any feedback?
 - 1. Concerns about workload regarding Title II compliance because no resources have been allocated to the project.
 - 2. What resources can faculty, and professionals get to help them with the task of creating accessibility that complies with Title II?
 - 3. Concerns about liability – some members believe if their materials are not compliant, they will be personally liable. Asking if they need insurance.

- v. Chapter President and VP's will be Attending Negotiations Advisory Committee Meeting Oct 9-10th conceptual proposals will be presented and voted upon. Thanks for participating in the negotiations survey.
Chapter President and VP's and delegates will be attending Fall Delegate Assembly October 24-25

VI. New Business

- a. Vote Cope- These funds help protect our collective bargaining rights. Your statewide affiliate—New York State United Teachers—has a nonpartisan political fundraising arm called VOTE-COPE that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor. Please even \$1 a paycheck can make a huge difference:
[LINK](#)

- b. New Hire Event - ideas for social interactions as HR changing format of the new hire orientations.
- c. IDA process – no budget yet but interested to learn what people feel about process.
- d. Upcoming workshops
 - i. There are two Academic Freedom workshops coming up in October from Statewide: Oct 16th and October 30th. You are encouraged to attend, and share with your colleagues *a membership email will also go out! The sign up link is [here](#)
- e. Holiday Celebration Ideas
 - i. We typically do ice skating for the winter party, does anyone have any other suggestions or ideas for something different? Or do we want to keep up the tradition?
- f. Any other concerns? – Several people indicated increasing problems finding car parking spaces. Seems to be quite problematic this semester.

Notes: Next LM meeting is Wednesday October 22nd 12-1pm remote via zoom. All are welcome to attend; if you would like to be there, e-mail the chapter at Brockport@uupmail.org and you will be added to the e-mail distribution. Attendance is on an observer-only basis.