

## UUP Oneonta Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

12 Noon- Le Café

Present: (24)

Le Café: (20) Ron Bishop, Shirley Clark, Robert Compton, Teresa DeSantis (Chapter Administrative Assistant), Christine Edwards, Ethan Fox, Brian Hennigan (Organizer), Jeri Anne Jerminario, Penina Kamina, Achim Koeddermann, Mike McAvoy, Anthony Nichols, Chris Sielaff (LRS), Bill Simons, Jessie Simpauco, Rob Trimarchi (Organizer), Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Matt Unangst, Gary Wickham

Virtual: (4) Penina Kamina, Melissa Lavin, Geoff O'Shea, Ed Wesnofske

### I. President's Report: Shirley Clark

A. Shirley commenced the meeting with a welcome at 12:03 PM.

B. Update concerning the Negotiations Committee Meeting in Albany on October 9–10, 2025. Oneonta was represented by Chapter President Shirley Clark, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco, and Officer for Contingents Melissa Lavin. Due to confidentiality protocols, there are restraints on public discussion at the meeting. However, compensation received key emphasis during the meeting as related to salaries, stipends, and benefits.

C. At the next Chapter meeting, there will be a vote concerning adoption of the proposed Chapter Bylaws.

D. Memorandum of Agreement signed by UUP, LRS, and University of Oneonta. On October 6, 2025, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by Oneonta UUP Chapter President Shirley Clark, Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff, and SUNY Oneonta Chief Human Resources Officer Dia Carleton. In this agreement, when an employee with healthcare benefits eligibility loses or is anticipated to lose benefits eligibility as a result of an action taken by Oneonta, the employee will receive a consultation with a representative of the Oneonta Office of Employee Services. The purpose of the consultation will be to identify potential employment opportunities that may effectuate continuity of benefits eligibility. The right of the employee to receive the consultation does not confer any right of continued benefits eligibility.

E. Fall Delegate Assembly. President Shirley Clark, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco, Secretary Bill Simons, Treasurer Richard Tyler, Officer for Retirees Jeri Anne Jerminario, Political Outreach Coordinator Ethan Fox, and Delegates Loraine Tyler, Penina Kamina, Michael McAvoy, Anthony Nichols, Matthew Unangst, Achim Koeddermann, and Christine Edwards represented the Oneonta chapter as voting delegates at the Fall 2025 Delegate Assembly, held in Albany on October 24–25, 2025. In addition, Betty Wambui provided Oneonta with a presence on the Women's Rights Committee.

F. Chapter President's Report. The preceding and other items are discussed in the print version of the Chapter President's Report, which was distributed to the Executive Board and posted on the Chapter website.

G. A moment of silence was observed in honor of former UUP Oneonta Officer for Contingents Cindy Klink. She passed away on October 23, 2025, after a valiant battle against small cell lung cancer. (Secretary Note: An article by Nancy Simons highlighting Cindy's achievements appears on pages 20-22 of the November 7, 2025, issue of *UUP-Date*.)

## II. Vice President for Academics: Election

- A. Noting that the office of Vice President for Academics is currently vacant, Achim Koeddermann moved the nomination of Rob Compton to serve as Acting Vice President for Academics.
- B. Bill Simons seconded the motion.
- C. Discussion: Rob stated that he plans to resign from SUNY Oneonta employment at the end of the academic year and, if elected, would retain the office only until then. During that time, however, Rob would prioritize recruiting a qualified successor and jump start Part II of the Academic Climate survey. He referenced academic workload and compensation. Bill noted Rob's past outstanding prior service as Chapter President, Vice President for Academics, Secretary, Delegate, newsletter columnist, and chair/member of several Chapter and State UUP committees.
- D. There were no further nominations, and a call for the vote was made.
- E. Rob was elected Acting Vice President for Academics by a vote of 20 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Applause followed the counting of the tally.

## III. Report of Vice President for Professionals: Jessie Simpauco

- A. Jessie referenced on-going committee discussion to conceptualize issues and initiatives.
- B. She discussed the concerns of Professionals with the campus presence of Turning Point and the organization's possible coordination with ICE. Jessie will continue to monitor this and remain in contact with SUNY Oneonta Vice President for Student Affairs Tracy Johnson.

## IV. Treasurer's Monthly Report: Rich Tyler

- A. Rich verbally corrected a few miscues concerning the dates, which elicited a clarification query. He then presented the revised monthly report.
- B. Gary Wickham moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report; Mike McAvoy seconded the motion.
- C. The revised Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

## V. Secretary Report: Bill Simons and Mike McAvoy

- A. Bill turned discussion of the minutes of the October 1, 2025, Executive Board Meeting over to Mike. Bill was absent on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and Mike filled in as Secretary

of the Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- B. Loraine Tyler moved for approval of the October 1, 2025, Executive Board minutes; Matt Unangst seconded the motion.
- C. The October 1, 2025, Executive Board minutes were approved 20 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention.

VI. Officer for Contingents Report: Melissa Lavin

- A. The Week of October 27<sup>th</sup> was Adjunct Equity Week. Melissa engaged the theme by showing the documentary *Adjunct*, and participating in the panel discussion on Wednesday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> with the film's documentarian. She invited student attendance in the program.
- B. It has come to Melissa's attention that Turning Point, USA, a group with a history of targeting the professoriate, has allegedly secured a campus adviser. Melissa is meeting with SUNY Oneonta Vice President for Student Affairs Tracy Johnson, and others, to learn about the parameters of the organization's activities on the SUNY Oneonta campus.

VII. Officer for Retirees Report: Jeri Anne Jerminario and Loraine Tyler

- A. Jeri turned discussion of the October 7, 2025, joint Oneonta-Delhi gathering over to Loraine since Jeri was out of the area at that time. Loraine reported that the event, held in Delhi, had 25 retirees and featured a speaker, medical skin specialist Michael Weinberg.
- B. All Oneonta UUPers, including retirees, are invited to the next *UUP Unplugged: Topics and Conversation* on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 3 PM, Morris Conference Center, Room 104

VIII. Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Report: Penina Kamina

- A. Penina reported on recent diversity meetings, focusing on indigenous peoples and immigrants, both at the Fall Delegate Assembly and virtually.
  - (i) She emphasized the need for vigilance.
  - (ii) More UUP Oneonta campus events to promote mutual understanding are in the planning stage.
- B. Melissa responded to the Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report, stating that she did not think that Turning Point aligned either with free speech or SUNY values.
  - (i) Rob Compton suggested asking the Administration directly about available information concerning possible Turning Point reportage to ICE.

IX. Political Outreach Coordinator Report: Ethan Fox

- A. Ethan will continue to try to liaison with the SUNY Oneonta Young Democrats organization and other student organizations.
- B. With the Federal cutbacks to SNAP, Ethan will work to encourage UUP Oneonta participation with local food banks.
- C. He reinforced the Turning Point concerns of other officers and counseled to keep a close eye.
- D. Bill suggested reactivating the UUP Upstate Mayor's Coalition and continuing

volunteering at the *Saturday's Bread* community kitchen. In regard to ties with local government, Bill noted that UUP Oneonta Office Assistant Teresa DeSantis was the top vote getter in the Tuesday, November 5, 2025, Town of Oneonta board election. Teresa received a round of applause.

X. Organizer Report: Rob Trimarchi

- A. Although the Chapter Membership Development Officer position remains vacant, 94% of eligible SUNY Oneonta full-time employees are members of UUP Oneonta. That figure is slightly above the state average.
- B. Rob introduced new organizer Brian Hennigan, who then spoke about his background and plans.
- C. UUP is developing a template to move new hires into the UUP conversation.
- D. Rob noted the utility of emphasizing common issues, such as the contract, in reaching out to new members.
- E. More new member events are planned.

XI. Achim motioned to adjourn; Bill seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.