

President's Report – April 2026

by Shirley A. Clark, Oneonta UUP Chapter President

The Gender Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education – Brings clarity to Individuality

The Gender Diversity Session on **March 3, 2026**, brought together faculty, and professional staff members for a thoughtful conversation on how gender shapes experiences in academic and social spaces. Led by DEI Chair Penina Kamina, with key support from committee members Erin Francisco and John Chiang, the session created a space where participants could openly examine challenges, share personal perspectives, and explore ways to foster a more inclusive campus culture. The organizers guided the discussion toward practical insights, highlighting disparities, amplifying underrepresented voices, and encouraging collaborative problem-solving. The session leader, Professor Kamina, also emphasized the importance of empathy and active listening which helps strengthen understanding across the campus.







A Budget Built on Shared Commitment

At the recent March 11th Oneonta UUP Chapter meeting, there was a real sense of shared purpose as members gathered to review and approve the upcoming budget. The room carried that familiar mix of practicality and solidarity that tends to define UUP gatherings as members fully aware that the decisions they make together shape the chapter's ability to advocate, organize, and support its members throughout the year. Acting Treasurer Michael McAvoy stepped confidently into the spotlight, guiding the discussion with a clear, methodical presentation of the proposed expenditures. Walking the chapter through each planned allocation, he explained not just the numbers but the reasoning and priorities behind them. His steady leadership helped transform what could have been a dry financial review into a thoughtful conversation about values, strategy, and the chapter's collective future. By the time the budget came up for approval, members weren't just voting on a spreadsheet, they were unanimously endorsing a shared commitment to the work ahead.





Rob Trimarchi also introduced our new Statewide UUP Organizer, David Grant, to our March 11 Oneonta UUP Chapter meeting members. With David's arrival the energy in the room shifted in a meaningful way and felt like the start of a fresh chapter in how we think about building power and strengthening our collective voice. Grant wasted no time diving into a thoughtful discussion about organizing practices, sharing both big-picture strategy and practical approaches that chapters across the state have been using to deepen engagement. He spoke with a mix of clarity and enthusiasm that made the conversation feel less like a lecture and more like a collaborative exploration of what effective organizing can look like for Oneonta specifically. Oneonta is happy to have Mr. Grant working with our Chapter.

