UUP Oneonta Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 12 Noon: Le Cafe, Morris Complex

Submitted by Bill Simons, Secretary

Total Present (18)

Le Café, Morris Complex (16): Ron Bishop, Shirley Clark, Teresa DeSantis (Chapter Administrative Assistant), Christine Edwards, Ethan Fox, Jeri Anne Jerminario, Penina Kamina, Achim Koeddermann, Melissa Lavin, Mike McAvoy, Anthony Nichols, Geoff O'Shea, Chris Sielaff (NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist), Bill Simons, Jessie Simpauco, Matt Unangst

Virtual (2): Rob Compton, Ed Wesnofske

I. President's Report: Shirley Clark

A. Shirley commenced the meeting with a welcome at 12:04 PM.

B. She expressed appreciation to Executive Board members, the Labor Relations Specialist, Chapter Administrative Assistant, and committee members.

C. Her monthly report, submitted by paper distribution at the meeting with an earlier electronic dissemination, stated:

Strong Oneonta Representation at the Spring 2026 Delegate Assembly

*The **Spring 2026 Delegate Assembly** saw a powerful turnout from the Oneonta UUP Chapter, demonstrating our chapter's ongoing commitment to statewide union governance and member advocacy. Representing Oneonta were: **President Shirley Clark, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco, Secretary William Simons, Acting Treasurer Michael McAvoy, Officer for Retirees Jerianne Jerminario, and Delegates Ed Wesnofske, Ethan Fox, Achim Koeddermann, Matthew Unangst, Christine Edwards, Anthony Nichols,** and **Penina Kamina**.*

*A Resolution Honoring the service of **Richard F. Tyler**, past Treasurer, was read by the Chapter President, Shirley Clark during the Spring DA.*

*Held in **Albany** from **April 23–25**, the Assembly brought together UUP members from across the state to discuss priorities, vote on leadership, and strengthen our collective voice. While statewide leadership elections went uncontested, the Executive Board elections saw meaningful democratic engagement. **Matt Smith** of **ESF** unseated **Susan Orr** of **Brockport** for an academic seat, and **Brendan McGovern** secured a professional seat that had been vacated. These elections reflect the healthy, participatory nature of our union and the value we place on member-driven leadership.*

D. Academic Delegate Koeddermann raised caveats to the characterization of the Delegate Assembly as democratic and participatory. He pointed out that most elections featured only one candidate and provided little time for questions.

E. Secretary Bill Simons added that in former times two political "parties," Reform and United, often presented competing candidates for both State and Chapter elections. He also noted that DA officer elections are in lieu of direct voting by the general membership, a proposal endorsed by the Oneonta Chapter. Bill reported

that at the DA candidate caucus State President Fred Kowal committed to working toward direct election of State officers.

2. UUP Oneonta Chapter Picnic: Sunday, May 17·11:00am – 4:00pm, SUNY Oneonta College Camp and Chapter meeting
   A. Shirley reported that due to the annual scheduled on-campus power shutdown, the SUNY Oneonta food service would not be able to cater the picnic. But perhaps arrangements could be made for Brooks' House of Bar-B-Q to do so.
      (i) Treasurer Mike McAvoy affirmed that the Chapter Treasury appeared to have sufficient funds to make catering arrangements with Brooks.
   B. Officer for Retirees Jeri Anne Jerminario offered to pick the food up at Brooks' on the day of the picnic.

3. President's Release Time Request
   A. Shirley explained that the Executive Board needed to vote on and approve her Presidential request for 40% Release Time that she submitted to Statewide as the Oneonta UUP Chapter covers only 10% of the cost. This was due to Statewide on April 22, 2026. This percent of Release Time is what she currently has.
   B. Bill moved for approval of the Presidential request for 40% Release Time.
   C. Achim seconded the motion.
   D. There was an opportunity for discussion.
   E. The Release Time motion passed by a vote of 14 for, 0 against, 2 abstain.

4. Vice President for Academics: Rob Compton
   A. Rob indicated that there was no Vice President for Academics report at this time.
   B. Concerning Part II Administrative Assessment survey, Bill raised questions about the response rate, the writing of a report, and distribution of results.
      (i) It was pointed out that those questions could be discussed under New Business.

5. Vice President for Professionals: Jessie Simpauco
   A. Prior to the meeting, Jesse had submitted to the Secretary a text report that included:

I want to highlight our chapter officers' hard work this spring semester so far, As of yesterday our chapter has held six events, with strong participation and consistent high attendance rates across the board.

Event Name	*Month*	*Registrations*	*Attended*	*Attendance Rate*	*No-Shows*	*Walk-ins*
Chapter Meeting: Fix Tier 6 / Advocacy Day	*Feb*	*34*	*31*	*91.2%*	*3*	*10*
LRS Workshop (February)	*Feb*	*24*	*24*	*100.0%*	*0*	*0*

DEI Event: Gender Divide	*Mar*	*21*	*16*	*76.2%*	*5*	*3*
LRS Workshop (March)	*Mar*	*23*	*20*	*87.0%*	*3*	*0*
Chapter Meeting: Organizing	*Mar*	*43*	*38*	*88.4%*	*5*	*3*
Chapter Event: Contract Negotiation ★APRIL	*APR*	*39*	*32*	*82.1%*	*7*	*4*

Disclaimer: This data will only be as accurate as how well we collect sign-in sheets. For example my record suggested I attended all of events and my RSVP is a hit and miss.
We have an attendance rates 76% to 100%. As far as meetings go we deserve an award for this. 😊 *(I'm joking about the award)*

Additional highlights:

- *Additional 2 rallies that our political outreach coordinator worked to encourage UUP participation.*
    - *No Kings*
    - *May Day*
- *Chapter Officers participated in two statewide events: Advocacy Day and the Spring Delegate Assembly*
- *Communications Committee put together 8 newsletters, compiled by the whole team with graphics designed by Ethan Fox and myself.*

Also, being a trainee in this leadership program I attended an additional three statewide events.

- *AFT Leaders Conference*
- *NYS ABPRHAL Caucus Weekend (New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislators)*
- *NYSUT BIPOC Pathways to Leadership Spring Convening*

Thank you all for showing up, contributing, and making things happen. Our efforts are what keep the chapter functioning.

LM Agenda Topic: Accommodation Renewal Process: Review and ask for clarification of the process for renewing accommodations for employees with documented permanent disabilities.

Progress since last executive board meeting:

- *A call for participation in the Housing Committee resulted in 6 volunteers:*

- *Cody Webb*
- *Diego Abraham*
- *Matthew Jenkins*
- *Deborah Oppong*
- *Cam*
- *Anthony Nichols (confirmed volunteer)*

- *The Professional Luncheon has been moved to fall due to scheduling conflicts with Carolyn Kube and her current contract negotiations work. Date will be determined later.*
- *I did three New Employee presentation and in the future I think it would be good to check how many new members we have after each Employee Orientation.*

Next Step:

- *Poll current Housing Committee volunteers to schedule a kick-off meeting and discuss next steps.*

6. The oral portion of Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco's report centered on her motion "to unappoint Rob Compton as Vice President of Academics, effective today, if passed. This motion is based on written correspondence distributed to the Executive Board on April 15, 2026, shared by Chapter Secretary William Simons, in which the acting Vice President for Academics Rob Compton implied fellow board members intentionally sabotaged Administrative Survey turnout, stated his intention to resign his UUP membership, and declared he would recruit other members to disassociate from the union."
   (i) Professional Delegate Anthony Nichols seconded the motion.
   A. The discussion that followed was lengthy, assertive, and overwhelmingly opposed to the motion.
   B. Criticisms of the motion included the following: first raised by email at 2:49 AM on the day of this Executive Board; nonconformity with procedures in the Chapter bylaws; political and retributive in nature; would tarnish image and effectiveness of Chapter; violated respect for academic freedom and freedom of expression; constitutes censorship; attempts to stifle speakers opposed to the discussion; and disrespects a retiring officer who over the past 20 years made enormous contributions to the Chapter and SUNY Oneonta.
   C. Jessie withdrew her motion.

7. A loud fire alarm went off at approximately 1 PM. At 1:04 PM, Academic Delegate Ed Wesnofske, a virtual attendee, observed that Le Café had been largely vacated, leaving the meeting sans a quorum, thus constituting a de facto adjournment.