

President's Report – October 2026

SUNY Oneonta Well Represented at Fall 2026 UUP Delegate Assembly

SUNY Oneonta was proud to have a strong delegation participate in the Fall 2026 United University Professions (UUP) Delegate Assembly in Albany, New York. Representing our chapter were Chapter President Shirley Clark, Vice President for Professionals Jessie Simpauco, Secretary William Simons, Treasurer Mike McAvoy, Political Action Coordinator Ethan Fox, Officer for Retirees Jeri Anne Jerminario, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Penina Kamina, and Delegates Ed Wesnofske, Achim Koeddermann, Anthony Nichols, Christine Edwards, and Loraine Tyler.

As the union's chief policymaking body, the Delegate Assembly provides members from across the state with an opportunity to debate issues, establish union priorities, and vote on resolutions that shape UUP's direction and advocacy efforts.

Among the resolutions generating significant discussion was a proposal submitted by SUNY Oneonta Delegate Ed Wesnofske calling for the direct election of statewide UUP officers by all dues-paying members. The resolution prompted thoughtful and spirited debate among delegates, reflecting strong interest in member engagement and union governance. While the proposal ultimately did not pass, it received considerable support and contributed to an important conversation about the future of democratic participation within our union.

Delegates also considered and voted on several resolutions addressing social justice, labor, and organizational issues. Resolutions approved by the Delegate Assembly included:

- A resolution expressing UUP's solidarity with the Minnesota 15 and calling for justice for victims of violence, the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in local communities, the dismissal of charges against peaceful protestors, and the reunification of individuals who have been deported or separated from their families.
- A resolution supporting divestment from Israel Bonds.
- A resolution calling upon the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to discontinue its relationships with Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies.

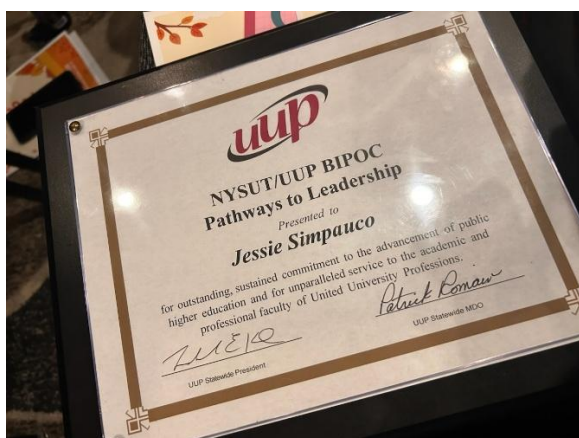
The final resolution about AI generated notable discussion among delegates regarding its wording and the unpractical implications of governing and determining what future interactions may turn out to be. As with many issues involving emerging technologies, delegates expressed a range of perspectives on how labor organizations should balance technological innovation, worker protections, and educational missions.

The Delegate Assembly once again demonstrated the value of member participation and open dialogue in shaping UUP policy. I want to thank all of SUNY Oneonta's delegates and chapter leaders who dedicated their time to representing our members, engaging in thoughtful debate, and ensuring our chapter's voice was heard on issues important to higher education, organized labor, and our union.



Jessie Simpauco receives NYSUT Leadership Award at Fall 2026 DA

Congratulations to Jessie Simpauco on receiving the NYSUT/UUP BIPOC Pathways to Leadership Award at the Fall 2026 Delegate Assembly! Jessie participated in a yearlong training program offered by NYSUT.



A Fond Farewell to Matthew Unangst

As Chapter President, it is both bittersweet and gratifying to recognize the departure of **Matthew Unangst**, who has accepted a new position at **Cornell Medicine**, where he will continue his commitment to higher education through work supporting faculty governance. While we are saddened to see him leave the SUNY Oneonta History department and our UUP chapter, we are excited to see him embark on this next chapter of his professional journey and know that the skills, integrity, and passion he brought to our campus will serve him well in his new role.

During his time at SUNY Oneonta, Matthew distinguished himself as an engaged union leader, thoughtful advocate, and steadfast colleague. His service to our chapter as both **Membership**

Development Officer and **Academic Delegate** reflected a deep commitment to strengthening our union and ensuring that the voices of our members were heard. Whether he was welcoming new members, encouraging greater participation in chapter activities, or representing our chapter's perspectives within UUP governance, Matthew approached his responsibilities with professionalism and purpose.

As Membership Development Officer, Matthew understood that the strength of our union depends upon the engagement of its members. He worked diligently to connect with colleagues across campus, helping foster a sense of belonging within our chapter and encouraging active participation in UUP's collective mission. His efforts helped reinforce the importance of solidarity and reminded us that our greatest achievements come when we work together.

As Academic Delegate, Matthew served as a thoughtful and effective representative of our chapter. He brought forward concerns, ideas, and perspectives from our members while remaining committed to the broader goals of UUP. His work helped strengthen the connection between our local chapter and the statewide union, ensuring that SUNY Oneonta's faculty voice contributed meaningfully to larger conversations affecting higher education and public employees across New York.

Perhaps those who have worked most closely with Matthew will remember his contributions during our Executive Board meetings. Matthew consistently approached discussions with thorough preparation, careful consideration, and genuine respect for differing viewpoints. He had a remarkable ability to balance principled advocacy with practical problem-solving. His comments were never made simply to fill space; instead, they reflected earnest thought, a commitment to fairness, and a desire to improve outcomes for our members.

One of Matthew's most visible contributions was his leadership in helping organize our **May Day 2025** activities. Recognizing the significance of May Day as a celebration of worker solidarity and collective action, Matthew took a leading role in coordinating a campus rally that brought together multiple labor organizations, including our colleagues in **CSEA** and other union partners. Through outreach, planning, and collaboration, he helped create an event that highlighted the shared interests and common values of workers across our campus community.

The success of that May Day rally reflected Matthew's belief that labor organizations are strongest when we all work together. The event provided an opportunity for members from different bargaining units and labor groups to stand in solidarity, celebrate collective achievements, and reaffirm the importance of organized labor in protecting workers' rights and advancing equity in higher education. Matthew's efforts helped make the rally a meaningful expression of unity and a reminder of the power of collective action.

Beyond his formal titles and responsibilities, Matthew has been a valued colleague and friend to many within our chapter. His dedication to service, his willingness to step forward when help was needed, and his commitment to the principles of shared governance and labor solidarity have left a lasting mark on our organization.

On behalf of the SUNY Oneonta UUP Chapter, I want to extend our sincere gratitude to Matthew for his service, leadership, and friendship. We thank him for the many ways he has

strengthened our chapter and enriched our campus community. We wish him every success at Cornell Medicine and look forward to hearing about the accomplishments that undoubtedly lie ahead.

Congratulations, Matthew, and thank you for all you have done for UUP and SUNY Oneonta. Your contributions have made a difference, and your contagious smile will be missed. I know that UUP paperweight won't weigh you down!!

