

## February VPA Meeting Notes

February 8, 2024

Meeting held via Zoom by Alissa Karl (UUP Vice President for Academics)

### 1. Program deactivation notices

- Fredonia
  - Right after Thanksgiving, the administration made the deactivation announcement
    - 14 programs slated for discontinuation (8 of the programs were already going away in 2018; COVID happened and this got pushed back)
    - No paperwork has been filed with SUNY/NYS
  - When announcement was made, ~300 students held a rally in protest of the proposed cuts
  - Busload of ~55 students Fredonia students going to Albany to rally and meet with legislators next week regarding this issue; UUP is helping to organize and fund this
  - Despite deactivating programs, new programs are being created; one is a Clinical Mental Health Counseling major
- Postdam
  - 7 retrenchment requests; no full departments are being retrenched; no more than one person from each department is going through the retrenchment process; appears that 3 – 4 individuals will retire; UUP has been ensured that everyone will get a full year before being retrenched
    - UUP is doing the one-on-one work to make the retrenchment go smoothly
- Downstate
  - A mess; proposed closure; numerous rallies the past few weeks, including UUP picketing outside of a Town Hall meeting
- UUP considering a campaign...“You did this!” (NYS gov’t)
- SUNY management also plays a significant role in all this; they have the responsibility to maintain programs, the integrity of the programs, etc.
  - A dean's #1 job is to make sure that their unit is working properly...same with the provost and all the VPs.
  - When programs fail, they put the responsibility on the faculty of those programs; not on the administration, which is unacceptable!
- Alissa K is sitting on a panel about program eliminations at the AFT conference in mid-February
  - Creating a management playbook; “you blame us for the problem” - how can we hold management more accountable to prevent deactivations/campus closures?
- Old Westbury – difficult to track how Management Confidential has changed (promotions, salaries, etc); entirely different management team from 5 years ago; can UUP research division can put together some data about how MC level positions have changed over time?
  - Administrative salaries have ballooned, but faculty/staff salaries haven’t
    - A lot of assistant positions and assistant to the assistant positions we’ve seen lately; why?

- Geneseo is experiencing a hiring freeze; every MC position is prioritized; emergency hires done here and throughout SUNY; however a faculty position is never prioritized
  - FOIL – ask your legal representative (LRS?) to request the information
- UUP Advocacy Day March 5; begins March 4; if we want to go, we need to sign up by the end of February