

**Polytechnic Institute Chapter of UUP Chapter Lunch Meeting**

October 8, 2024

12-1:50 pm

**Welcome**

Chapter President, Kathleen Rourke, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today’s chapter luncheon meeting.

**Introduction of UUP Executive Board Officers**

Kathleen introduced the Executive Board members and thanked them for their service:

Alex Bulson – VP of Academics; Steve Perta – VP for Professionals; Michelle Tucker – Treasurer; Beth Tolman – Secretary; Jack Green – Officer for Contingents; Mike Durr, Officer for Retirees; and Maureen Cool – Chapter Assistant. Kathy Briggs-Renadette, Labor Representative Specialist (LRS), was present at today’s meeting.

Dr. Kazuko Behrens, SUNY Poly Professor and Psychology Program Coordinator, is soliciting right-handed mothers of children between the ages of 12-18 months of age. Participants must sign a consent form and each family will receive $100 upon the completion of two visits. See the attached flyer for additional information.

**Individual Development Awards (IDAs)**
Steve Perta gave an overview of the Individual Development Awards and the requirements. The IDAs are designed to support a variety of professional development projects or activities for eligible full-time and part-time academic and professional employees to assist them in developing their full professional potential and to prepare for advancement. The current activity period is from July 2, 2024 through July 1, 2025. The IDA announcement email will be sent within the next week to all UUP staff. On the application under Expenditures, there’s a new C2 section for artistic or research consumables, fees for short term use of specialized equipment, and costs associated with publishing. If that C2 section is used, and additional endorsement by a supervisor, department and/or unit head is required. The maximum amount that can be awarded for each applicant is $2,000. Employees may be funded for up to two projects or activities, not to exceed a total of $2,000.

**New UUP Website**

Alex Bulson along with John Madia have teamed up and have created a new UUP Poly website. To access the website, search uuppoly or uuphost.org/poly/. Labor management meeting notes and chapter meeting notes will be available on the website.

**Updates from the Delegate Assembly (DA)**Alex Bulson gave a DA update and stated that the goal for this academic year is to increase UUP transparency and to encourage members to be involved and active. There will be a UUP breakfast next spring and a spring informal. Alex is also working on securing discount Utica Comets tickets.

Campus Equity Week is a week that’s devoted to acknowledging the service of adjunct faculty which takes place annually the last week of October at all UUP-represented SUNY campuses. Members are encouraged to wear a ‘Campus Equity’ button the week of 10/28. Alex and Mike Green are in the process of launching a system which allows members to receive notifications regarding UUP updates both locally and statewide.

Mike Green presented information on how to join the SUNY Poly UUP Chapter Google group for members to chat and ask questions about SUNY Poly UUP topics. Users can choose how often they want to receive updates, and personal email addresses are required rather than members’ SUNY Poly email addresses. The tabs at the bottom list adjuncts, contingents, and professionals, but the default applies to all full-time professionals and faculty.

**Discussion of Issues Sheets**Kathleen Rourke stated that issues sheets have been created and are available on the UUP Poly website for UUP staff who need or request union assistance. The purpose is to provide additional documentation and data collection prior to contacting and meeting with the chapter president or the VP for academics and/or professionals.

The labor management meeting involving the Chapter President, Chapter VPs and NYSUT LRS, meets twice a semester with the SUNY Poly president, provost, and HR VP to discuss and to work collaboratively on issues. Members are encouraged to notify our Chapter President, Kathleen Rourke, if there are any issues that need to be included on the agenda. The deadline for agenda items is two weeks prior to the scheduled labor management meetings. The next labor management meeting is scheduled for October 21.

**Q&A**
A question was posed about the UUP Chapter Google group confidentiality vs. legality. Kathy Briggs-Renadette stated that it’s confidential to the degree that the elected reps don’t go to administration because they are subject to being subpoenaed. Many issues can be resolved semi-anonymously. Sometimes a name is needed so the issue can be resolved, but we strive to keep names confidential. This is not a client/attorney relationship.

A question was posed regarding clarification regarding how faculty are covered under Auxiliary Services and where they fit when the institute negotiates with Auxiliary Services. This is in reference to the email that faculty received at the beginning of the semester that claimed faculty were violating the institution’s contract by providing cheaper sources for textbook materials. There’s been no clarification thus far, and nothing was mentioned regarding OER. The email will be forwarded to Kathleen Briggs-Renadette, LRS.

A last month’s ethics on-line training, a faculty member asked the moderator what the working hours are for faculty in relation to lobbying politically during working hours. Kathy Briggs-Renadette said that working hours are when faculty are specifically assigned to teach which also includes their office hours. An employer can dictate your work time, so avoid doing political activities during scheduled teaching and during office hours. Since this question hasn’t been answered by HR, it will be on the October 21 Labor Management meeting agenda.

Submitted,



Maureen Cool
Chapter Assistant