



**United University Professions
Albany Chapter**

Albany Chapter UUP Executive Committee meeting

9/30/2021 Minutes

Attendance: Aaron Major, Janna Harton, Monica Bartoszek, Penny Strobeck, David Banks, Patrick Dodson, Sandra Vergari, Kate Coddington, Michelle Couture, Daniel Robbins, Alexander Dawson, Cecilia Levy, Sheena Loughlin, Michael Dzikowski, John Leirey, Samantha Rider, Ronald McClamrock, Lauren Casertino, Anne Woulfe, Jennifer Carron, Alison Olin, Zina Lawrence, James Collins, Paul Stasi, Greta Petry, Andrew Lyons, Pedro Caban, Kelly LaPerle, Elizabeth Strum

1. Minutes of the 9/1/2021 EC meeting were approved.
2. President's report was sent out previous to the meeting but new information came from the Statewide Chapter Presidents meeting. The State mandate has now required all health care workers to be vaccinated. The good news is there's been a spike in vaccinations. The bad news is around 300 members have been suspended for refusing. UUP resources will be needed to make sure these folks get due process and the Labor Relations Specialists will be busy.

Problems for 27-28 Albany members have developed around violations with masking and surveillance testing. HR resources are tied up with these rather than other individual member issues. A suggestion was made that we prioritize non-Covid issues. Aaron noted that ALL disciplinary actions as well as member complaints need to be addressed by UUP. Michelle Couture agreed and said there would need to be some triage.

For course modalities, HR is still considering ADA requests but course modalities are not part of that consideration even for serious health issues. We need a clear understanding of who has the authority to approve course modalities. This led to discussion on where the University's priorities lie (filling the dorms, parent pressure, SUNY's legal advice that it has the right to curtail online courses). Aaron stated we have no control but can continue to bring the issue to Management. Discussion continued on the University's shortfall of \$9 million. The Provost put a 5-year timeframe on budget reductions. A small meeting will take place to discuss funding, stimulus money and enrollments. We now know there had been talk of serious retrenchment before the stimulus money arrived. The Faculty Senate and UUP share the same concerns regarding budget and enrollment numbers.

- a. Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee. Regarding prep for contract negotiations, Aaron mentioned upcoming town halls. A survey will go out to get member input. Statewide there will be a Negotiations

Team, Negotiations Committee, and Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee. The Ad Hoc needs 1 professional and 1 academic from our membership. Volunteers?

Congrats to Jim Collins who is retiring but will continue teaching and working with UUP.

3. Officer/Committee Reports

Contingents. David Banks brought up several issues:

- He had heard of one instructor who went remote for 2 weeks after learning of 2 Covid cases in his class. Aaron felt there should be a centralized place for campus case info.
- Some full-time lecturers have not received retroactive pay.
- David would like a non-UAlbany email list of contingents.
- Aaron noted that only a handful of full-time lecturers were promoted this year out of 110, and that rate is stultifying. Contract language is needed.

Professionals. Zina Lawrence said that D/E/I faculty and professionals will be asked their concerns in prep of contract negotiations. Aaron felt telecommuting implementation info needs gathering. He encouraged people to try for telecommuting.

4. Upcoming DA in October. Delegates can still be seated by reaching out to Kelly.

Running short on meeting time, Aaron urged all who have not done so to take the University's health survey. Results will provide University-generated data that UUP can also utilize to help address member issues.

Also, the campus is planning another winter session building shutdown and is discussing with HR implications for the telecommuting policy.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Strum