

UUP Report (submitted by Frank J. Byrne, Oswego Chapter President) – General Faculty Assembly, October 21, 2024

1. General Membership Meeting – Thursday, Oct. 24, from 12:00-1:30pm in 114 Marano.
2. News from Fall Delegate Assembly:
 - a. “SUNY is for Everyone” Campaign – a UUP-wide shared messaging campaign to emphasize issues and action at every UUP chapter. We seek to build member action and public pressure to ensure that our state university campuses and hospitals truly meet the needs of our members and the people we serve. This comes out of our summer meeting in Syracuse. We seek to build pressure around the following areas:
 - i. Fair funding for all campuses to maintain breadth of our programs and services and to protect our members’ jobs and working conditions.
 - ii. Access for all to a varied, robust system that supports all campuses types with their diverse but connected missions.
 - iii. Push back against management overreach by showing union visibility and power.
 - Describe how the campaign may work
 - b. NYS Comptroller’s Report: Economic Impact of Higher Education (September 2024):
 - i. Please read the relatively short report at <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/higher-education-economic-impact.pdf>
 - ii. “New York’s 290 degree granting postsecondary institutions¹ employed more than 296,000 people with total wages of around \$27 billion in 2023. In addition, consumer spending on higher education in New York totaled \$15.7 billion and spending on research and development totaled \$8.3 billion in 2022.”
 - c. Benefits Discussion (with Doreen Bango, Director of Member Benefits):
 - i. The discussion mainly involved Delta Dental as Bango discussed how DD has many more providers than rival networks in NYS. I raised the dearth of providers in Oswego County. Ms. Bango informed us that DD is conducting a “welcome back” campaign to the top 100 providers after they increased fees this past July. I don’t know if this includes any providers locally. There seems to be something of a crisis in Binghamton after a major provider there cut off services.
 - ii. New benefits in the area of cosmetic health treatments (“Beyond Med”) that can found in the members only section of the UUP website.
 - iii. Through AFT there is online trauma counseling (offer examples and limitations) up to 21 meetings and is 100% confidential.
 - d. Appendix 48 Update (in response to a member question from Oswego)
 - i. Discussions not progressing but will come up in late October at LM meeting between Statewide and Chancellor’s Office. This area pertains mainly to librarians.
 - e. UUP is now part of HELU:
 - i. Higher Education Labor United (HELU) is a national organization founded in 2021 to unite workers throughout U.S. higher education. HELU brings together unions that represent staff, student workers, adjunct, contingent, and tenured faculty, postdocs, university health system workers, and others. We come together to create and pursue a unified vision for higher education and to add our strength to a reinvigorated U.S. labor movement. Unions and organizations representing over 225,000 higher ed and allied workers across the U.S. have joined HELU as member organizations. Check it out at <https://higheredlaborunited.org/>
 - f. VOTE-COPE: Raised \$83K+ thus far this year (note that this is the political action group for UUP and that member dues are not used for political purposes.

- g. 2024 Election, SUNY, & UUP:
 - i. The election and the possible impact of a second Trump presidency was a major point of emphasis by President Fred Kowal and others. For his agenda and its impact upon public unions and higher education in this country see <https://www.project2025.org/>
- 3. Chapter Election Cycle:
 - a. See accompanying chart
 - b. Please consider running for a delegate or officer position!
- 4. Campus Equity Week:
 - a. Chapter Officer Lisa Glidden and I are firming up details to acknowledge and celebrate the critical work of our contingent faculty and staff next week.
- 5. Advocacy Day – February 25, 2025 (9:00am-4:00pm) in the NYS Capitol (see registration link)