

UUP Report (submitted by Frank J. Byrne, Oswego Chapter President) – General Faculty Assembly, February 17, 2025

1. General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 12:00-1:00pm in 201 Marano.
2. Spring Delegate Assembly:
 - a. Will be held in Albany from April 3-5
 - b. The agenda can be found in the “members only” section of the UUP website-- <https://uupinfo.org/>
 - c. Please contact our chapter officers and/or delegates if you would like us to raise any specific issues at the DA.
3. Advocacy Day: Is next week on Tuesday, February 25, in the state house in Albany. I am pleased to report that the Oswego chapter is sending five representatives (the goal set for by President Fred Kowal).
4. Chapter Elections:
 - a. The nomination period has closed.
 - b. There is at least one candidate for every office.
 - c. Ballots will be mailed by the Statewide office between March 12-14.
 - d. As in the past, a chapter newsletter containing candidate statements will be disseminated to members at that time.
5. IDA Program: A reminder that employees may be funded for up to two projects or activities, not to exceed a total of \$2,000 for the period of July 2, 2024, through July 1, 2025. There is only one round of review for our chapter this year. Applications are due to our chapter by Friday, March 28, 2025. They are to be sent to uup@oswego.edu and you *must* copy me at frank.byrne@oswego.edu or byrnefrank231@yahoo.com.
6. Oswego Ambassador Workshop: Ambassadors serve as liaisons and representatives between chapter officers and offices/departments where our members work on campus. Presently we have almost twenty ambassadors across campus. In late March-early April we will have a virtual workshop to discuss member concerns, plans for the future, etc..
7. “UUP 101” Virtual Workshops: This webinar is ideal for new and newly engaged members or anyone who needs a refresher, and will cover UUP’s structure, who we are, who we represent, what we do, and our role in the larger labor movement. Webinars will be held on:
 - i. Tuesday, March 11 from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
 - ii. Wednesday, April 16 from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AMTo join the discussion, please register using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/R1gVWbKzxWPMnNaW9>
8. UUP, SUNY, and the New Administration:
 - a. As we know, the past three weeks have been a tumultuous time for those of us in higher education and in organized labor. To understand the stakes involved, I recommend reading Michelle Goldberg’s Feb. 14 editorial, “Trump Wants to Destroy All Academia, Not Just the Woke Parts” in the NYT (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/14/opinion/trump-college-academia-woke.html?searchResultPosition=6>)
 - b. In yet another example of the current state of affairs, late Friday night (Feb. 14) The Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights declared all race-conscious student programming, resources and financial aid illegal over the weekend and threatened to investigate and rescind federal funding for any institution that does not comply within 14 days. The order is so vaguely (poorly? tendentiously?) written that it make race-based scholarships, cultural institutions, and graduations illegal. While the letter is likely to be challenged in court, but in the meantime it could have a ripple effect on colleges’ willingness to continue funding diversity programs and resources for underrepresented students.

- c. President Kowal has shared UUP's position on the cuts to the NIH here: <https://uupinfo.org/communications/releases/250210.php>. For those who missed President Kowal's statement on these devastating cuts it is as follows:
- "Therefore, once again, as we did with the previous freeze on government spending, we are creating what I'm calling a "case file." Any of you who have NIH grants or have colleagues that you know of who have NIH grants, please take a moment to fill out this form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UUP_NIH_CAP The data we gather will enable us to provide advocates working on our behalf through the courts to substantiate our claims. Further, it will be useful in convincing members of Congress (especially from New York) that they need to defend their constituents and the communities where we live and work and not acquiesce to the will of the billionaires running this new administration."
- d. What can be done?
- i. In the short term UUP will be sponsoring a series of rallies and events to highlight how the current administration's policies are gutting SUNY's mission to educate and provide opportunities for the citizens of New York State. At a time when national leaders seek to divide Americans along racial, gender, and class lines we need to work together now more than ever to build the kind of society we wish to see. As President Kowal has articulated, our goal should be to pressure moderate Republicans in the NYS legislature to protect SUNY as well as to influence public opinion.
 - ii. UUP "Rapid Responders" List: Our Statewide VPA, Alissa Karl, is asking for volunteers who are willing to engage in virtual actions (phone calls, letter writing, forms of protests, etc.) within hours of notification. As "norms" and policies are being overthrown at a dizzying pace, this group will be dedicated to pushing back to the administration's "shock and awe" in kind. Statewide and our chapter will be providing a QR code to those of us who are willing to engage in this work. **Look for more information on this in coming weeks.*
 - iii. ORGANIZE! We each must step up and work in our community to build a movement that supports our students, colleagues, and the wider public who value diversity, empathy, and the role public higher education plays in our state. This is not just union work, this is neighborhood, school, and church work. Now is not the time to despair, it is the time for discipline, continuous action.
9. Chapter Officers and Delegates: Just a reminder who our officers and delegates are at the moment (before the next election). If you wish to get more involved in our chapter or have any questions/concerns please do not hesitate to contact any of us:
- President
Frank Byrne
Email: byrnefrank231@yahoo.com
 - Vice President for Professionals
Justin Norman
Email: normanjustin97@gmail.com
 - Vice President for Academics
Elizabeth Schmitt
Email: liz.dunneschmitt@gmail.com
 - Secretary
Gregory Ketcham
 - Treasurer
Michelle Turner
Email: mturner29@twcny.rr.com
 - Officer for Contingents

Lisa Glidden

Email: gliddenglisa@gmail.com

- Officer For Retirees
Lawrence Fuller
Email: lfuller50@gmail.com
- Membership Development Officer
Emily Estrada
Email: Emily.p.estrada@gmail.com

Chapter Delegates:

- Delegate (A)
Steven Abraham
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- Delegate (A)
Evelyn Benavides
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Alanna Ossa
- Delegate (A)
Charles Spector