

SPRING 2009

IN TOUCH ...



ELECTION EDITION

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President's Notes

By Chuck Spector

Dear Union Members:

In the next few days you will receive ballots for the biannual elections of your chapter. As in the past, the chapter has opted to have the elections run out of UUP in Albany. If you do not receive a ballot, the chances are that you are not a member. You are a fee payer and are not eligible to vote in the election. Be that as it may, please call the chapter secretary to determine the reason.



This edition of the newsletter consists of statements of candidates for the positions of (1) officers of your chapter and (2) delegates to attend the three delegate assemblies per year that your union holds. I hope that you will read each statement carefully and vote for the candidate of your choice.

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Steven E Abraham for President and Delegate
Marketing & Management Professor



I am running for the position of President of the Oswego chapter of UUP and I hope you will support my candidacy. I truly believe that my academic background in labor law and labor relations plus my experience with the Oswego chapter of UUP give me the background necessary to be an effective chapter president.

My entire academic background is in the field of union-management relations. My undergraduate degree is a B.S. in labor relations from the Cornell University School of Labor Relations. After obtaining my B.S., I earned my law degree from NYU and followed that with five years working as an attorney in labor and employment law. After leaving the practice of law, I obtained my Ph.D. in labor relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute of Labor Relations. I believe that this background has prepared me well to serve as chapter president.

Since coming to Oswego in the fall of 1997, I have been extremely involved with UUP. I became an Oswego chapter delegate in my second year at Oswego and have been a delegate ever since. In 2005, I was elected to be vice president for academics and have held that position for the past four years. Currently, I am co-chair of the statewide disability committee and am a member of the state human and civil rights committee. On campus, I have been dedicated to protecting as well as improving the terms and conditions of employment for Oswego employees represented by UUP. For example, I was instrumental in helping the Oswego chapter of UUP ob-

tain raises in the salaries for summer school courses and adjuncts. For many years, UUP's central office had informed the Oswego chapter that management was not required to bargain with UUP about summer school and adjunct pay because these issues were non-negotiable according to the Taylor Law (the New York State labor law for public sector employees). My experience in labor relations and knowledge of labor law lead me to question the correctness of UUP's claim and I went on to research the issue. Sure enough, my research showed that the UUP central office was mistaken and that these subjects could be negotiated between the Oswego chapter of UUP and the campus administration. Shortly thereafter, as academic vice president of the Oswego chapter, I helped negotiate increases in both the summer school pay and the adjunct salaries; subsequently, each has been raised again. I believe that my knowledge of labor law and labor relations has been helpful in other situations as well.

In closing, I believe that I have the background and experience necessary to be a successful UUP president for the Oswego chapter. The next few years are likely to be extremely difficult for faculty, especially given the current budget crisis, and UUP will need strong, knowledgeable and experienced leadership to protect the interests of the bargaining unit. My academic background in labor law and my experience with the Oswego chapter of UUP give me the knowledge, ability and experience to advocate for the interest of the members of the bargaining unit. I hope that you will vote for me. In the mean time, if I can answer any questions that might help you make up your mind about how to cast your vote, please do not hesitate to contact me my e-mail is abraham@oswego.edu and my extension on campus is 3307.

Maureen Curtin PH.D for President and Delegate
English Department Professor

Let me begin by acknowledging that over the years I have taken our union for granted. It's not that I have been skeptical of its goals or methods. On the contrary, you could say I have a union pedigree, taken from New York City: dad retired from the Cement & Concrete Workers Union, Local 18A after three decades, only to become a member of the Doorman's Union, Local 32BJ. Mom, meanwhile, continues to work as a paraprofessional in the south Bronx, thanks to two decades in the United Federation of Teachers. Let me be clear: though unions remain an easy target, criticized for purportedly driving business out and under, my parents both still work after retirement age because they never made the kind of killing that Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch CEO's now preside over. Of course, as in most things, a union pedigree is not in itself a qualification. It is, though, a history of which I am proud, and a form of service I hope to extend as president of SUNY-Oswego's chapter of the United University Professions.

Let me explain why I am seeking office now. I have the good fortune to be close to a circle of teachers in a privately run pre-K and elementary school. The work they do is extraordinarily challenging and rewarding, though like most teachers their salary and benefits constitute only a smart part of the rewards. When in the past year, the school began to shift its goals to guaranteeing parental satisfaction, these teachers began to lose the autonomy that is so crucial to principled pedagogy. I spent long hours conferring with some of these teachers, and again and again it was clear that in the absence of a union, the faculty had no recourse. Many who had accepted remarkably low salaries could not tolerate equally low regard for their decision-making. They simply left. Seeing the loss of autonomy in this private school setting proved a powerful impetus to serve the union.

Let us not underestimate the need for autonomy in the university setting where we have long enjoyed it in abundance. Now, in an education age driven by *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, its erosion is not hard to see. So let us remember that in the classroom, autonomy means that

faculty can emphasize thinking, in all of its difficulty and even dissatisfaction, rather than emphasize facile demonstrations of "excellence." Let us consider that elsewhere on campus, autonomy ensures that our colleagues on staff can emphasize



principles and integrity rather than be pressured to yield to the priority of customer satisfaction. Let us consider that adjunct faculty, growing nationally at roughly the same rate university administrations do, lack more than fair pay; they lack autonomy and the opportunities to participate in the responsibilities of full-time faculty. Let us consider that, perhaps unlike ever before, our students need faculty who have the resources to be fully engaged.

Let us agree to work together, faculty and staff joined under the United University Professions, to preserve autonomy. Let us collaborate creatively so that the union not only works to preserve autonomy but also to promote new ideas, projects, and strategies. Let us take a page from Sy Fliegel's remarkable book, *Miracle in East Harlem*, and create partnerships which strengthen education in New York rather than cannibalize it. Let us bring our talents, interests, skills, and energies to the union and the SUNY system so that, together, we can ensure that what happened to tuition dollars this year—diverted from campuses where students take classes to Albany where it was used to offset the state deficit—does not happen again. Let us become more active right now so that the Governor does not divert our contractual salary increases next. Let us work together to maintain the autonomous conditions of our intellectual work, a form of labor which, in fostering questions and dissent rather than churning out answers and compliant citizens, is not productive in quite the way that capitalism celebrates. Let us acknowledge that unions thus play a crucial role in the future of the university, especially in SUNY. Please join me in renewing your commitment to serve the union where, together, we can work to shape our destiny rather than have it dictated to us.

Steve Rosow for Vice President for Academics and Delegate
Political Science Professor



I am asking for your vote as Vice-President for Academics for the Oswego Chapter of UUP. The worst of the attacks on faculty by right wing zealots (including members of the SUNY Board of Trustees) may be in the past (for now) but trends persist that challenge us as scholars, teachers, and professionals. I have been active in UUP for over 10 years and would like to continue to be as your chapter Vice-President for Academics.

The current financial crisis has deepened the challenges we face, but these challenges did not originate with the current crisis. Pressures to manage our work in order to make it more accountable to economic forces threaten to overwhelm academic and intellectual concerns. A new assessment regime, together with demands for higher productivity (whatever that means in the context of education!), is increasing our workload and threatens to turn us into managers and technicians rather than teachers and scholars. The increased use of contingent faculty, and the trend to treat them as ever-more contingent and expendable, did not originate with the current crisis and will not recede when the current crisis is resolved. These are general trends in academia, and Oswego is not immune to them. UUP must be a

central force in fighting these trends.

I have been a member of your chapter executive board for over 10 years. I have represented you as a delegate and have served as chapter Treasurer and Vice-President for Academics, and represented you on the Negotiations Committee for the previous contract. I have attended all of the UUP training workshops and currently serve as the Chair of the Corporatization and Globalization Committee of UUP. Finally, over the past five years I have published several articles on the politics of the university, edited a special issue of a leading British journal of international relations on globalization and the university, and am currently co-editing a book, to be published next year, entitled *Transforming Higher Education: Economy, Democracy and the University*.

If you elect me, I will work as your representative, to address the common issues that face us as academics, as well as your particular interests and concerns. I promise that my doors, real and virtual, will always be open.

PROFESSIONALS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION WORKSHOP
April 23rd at 3PM in Campus Center Room 206
Please call x2215 to reserve a seat

Winfield Inlow for Vice President for Professionals and Delegate
Office of Learning Services, Senior Academic Tutor

It has been my honor to have served as the V P for Professional Staff of our UUP local chapter for this past term.

Before that, for a number of terms I served as the Executive Secretary for the local chapter. For the past 10 years, or so, I have also been a delegate to the UUP statewide Delegate Assembly which meets three times per year. I have also been a member of the statewide Legislative Outreach Committee. Additionally, I have served on the Individual Development Award Program (IDAP) committee, first as a committee member, and for the past few years, as the coordinator/liaison who recruits committee members and organizes the process.

I have been honored to have your support and trust over the years.

I am running for the position because I am hoping to work for two things that I believe in. The first is the democratic process. UUP is a union committed to the participation by its members in the se-

lection of its leadership and in the policies and activities of the union. One of our goals locally needs to be encouraging and promoting more participation from our membership on campus. The second thing that I believe in is the strength we benefit from in collective action. The level of our income, the current and retirement benefits we receive, and the security of our employment are largely the result of collective strength. Our "terms and conditions of employment" come from the contract that UUP negotiates, in everyone's behalf, with the New York State. I have tried and will continue to try to act to support and further these two belief for the UUP membership on our campus.



I hope that you will support me in my continuing as the Vice President for Professional Staff for our local chapter. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Lori Nash for Part-time Concerns Representative and Academic Delegate
Philosophy Instructor Part-time



I am running for the positions of Part-time Concerns Representative and Academic Delegate. I have been Oswego's Part-time Concerns Representative since 2005. In 2008, I won the Fayez Samuel Award for Courageous Service.

When I started my service to UUP, the starting pay for adjuncts had not increased in over 17 years. In the first year of my service, I made sure that increasing adjunct pay became a priority, and I would not let this issue be taken off the table until we achieved success. Because of my persistence, we won increases for adjuncts in 2006, as well as 2008.

I am actively involved in the Oswego Campus. I regularly attend Executive Board meetings and participate in Labor/Management Meetings. I also regularly contribute to the campus newsletter. Members of the campus community frequently seek out my advice on part-time issues. When an individual member contacts me with a concern, I follow up on the concern promptly. I draw on the expertise of my UUP colleagues and the staff at NYSUT, doing everything in my power to solve problems to the satisfaction of our members.

I am also actively involved in state-wide activities. I am a member of the Part-time Concerns Committee and was a member of the President's Commission on Part-time Labor.

Larry Fuller for Treasurer & Academic Delegate
Chemistry Professor



For the past two years I have been honored to serve as the UUP Treasurer. I would like to continue to serve the Oswego college community as treasurer.

Steven E Abraham for Academic Delegate
Marketing & Management Professor



This person is running for Academic Delegate in addition to President candidacy. "Multiple Candidacy Is Valid. Election as an Officer automatically qualifies the winner as a Delegate. See the Candidates officer Statement."

Brian Betz for Academic Delegate
Retired Communications Professor

I ask you, the voting chapter members, to support me for continued service as a member of the chapter executive board. I have been a chapter member since coming to Oswego in the fall of 1977. Since 1979 I have been an executive board member and have served as chapter treasurer, academic vice-president, and chapter president. I have also served through the years as a delegate the New York State United Teachers state assemblies and the American Federation of Teachers national assemblies.

Academically I have held the rank of associate professor, professor, and department chair in the Communication Studies Dept. where I designed the departmental major programs in public relations, interpersonal communication, and journalism. I bring my experience in these areas to my work on the chapter board.

I would like to continue my service to the campus chapter and let my grey hair work for you. Thank you for your support. Yours in solidarity!

Larry Fuller for Academic Delegate
Chemistry Professor



This person is running for Academic Delegate in addition to Treasurer candidacy. "Multiple Candidacy Is Valid."

Lori Nash for Academic Delegate
Philosophy Instructor Part-time



This person is running for Academic Delegate in addition to Part-time Concerns Representative candidacy. "Multiple Candidacy Is Valid."

Don Masterson for Academic Delegate
English Professor



A glance at my photograph might suggest that I'm resting on my laurels (whatever they might be). Not so. Before I settle in to my rocking chair for good after many years at Oswego, I have some important work to do. Union work. Work that needs to be done now more than any other time in the often crisis driven atmosphere in New York State government in general and SUNY in particular. So, what needs to be done?

Most of all, members of the Oswego chapter of UUP need to be continually assured that their local can be counted on for support in both the practical matters regarding terms and conditions of employment and in offering our collective voice in Albany. In the first instance, I propose that we staff an on-campus site at least three hours per week for the purposes of consultation, information distribution, and other union related matters. This "informed space" would offer "face time" with a UUP officer, going beyond the service provided by our soon to be established web

site, and our often overburdened President and VP. I will devote time each week for this activity. Secondly, I will continue to travel to Albany for Legislative Information Days and other such activities, and, if necessary, join in collective action with other local unions as I have done in strikes at Sunrise Nursing Home and one other job action.

I am proud to have come from a union family, grateful for the opportunity to have served as a Delegate for the last four years, and anxious to continue my work with my brothers and sisters at Oswego.

Steve Rosow for Academic Delegate
Political Science Professor



This person is running for Academic Delegate in addition to Vice President for Academics candidacy. "Multiple Candidacy Is Valid. Election as an Officer automatically qualifies the winner as a Delegate. See the Candidates officer Statement."

Chapter Secretary Needed

Anyone interested in becoming more active in our chapter leadership is welcomed and encouraged to submit your name, or the name of another UUP member, as a WRITE IN CANDIDATE who would be interested in serving in the role of Chapter Secretary. (If submitting a colleague's name, you must confirm with that person that he/she would actually be interested in serving in the position.) If you have any questions about what the duties and commitments of being a delegate are, you can contact Winfield Ihlow at ext 2558 or at ihlow@oswego.edu. Please consider this way of helping our chapter serve the UUP membership.

Chuck Spector for Academic Delegate
Accounting, Finance & Law, Chair



I have enjoyed my two terms as chapter president, but my original platform was very narrow. It is time to pass the baton to the next member of the team.

Here are some of our accomplishments:

1. During my term as president we have not lost ground in terms of adjunct and summer pay. It is arguable, however, that we haven't gained much ground.
2. Our leadership team has stood firm on matters related to the union contract and upholding its provisions. Working with Steve Abraham, V.P. of Academics and Winfield Ihlow, V.P. of Professionals we have stood strong in protecting the rights of members covered under the contract. Bruce Altschuler has counseled many members acting as both professional and academic grievance officer.
3. We have instituted a "meeting/social event" to honor retirees at the end of the spring semester.
4. Our treasurer, Larry Fuller, has restored (with the help of Beth Canale) fiscal responsibility to the chapter's financial affairs.
5. We have developed a good professional working relationship with the administration. It is my hope to continue as a member of the statewide finance and audit committees and to serve as an academic delegate for two more years. Remaining in the position of academic delegate should facilitate the transition to a new union team, as I refocus my activities as Chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Law.

I want to thank the membership for the honor of having served them for the past four years.

Winfield Ihlow for Professional Delegate
Office of Learning Services, Senior Academic

This person is running for Academic Delegate in addition to Vice President for Professionals candidacy. "Multiple Candidacy Is Valid. Election as an Officer automatically qualifies the winner as a Delegate. See the Candidates officer Statement."



Professional Delegates Needed

The Oswego campus is allotted a total of 4 delegates to the UUP Delegate Assembly, representing the Professional Staff members of our chapter. There are three more positions for delegates open. Anyone interested in becoming more active in our chapter leadership is welcomed and encouraged to submit your name, or the name of another Professional Staff member, as a WRITE IN CANDIDATE who would be interested in serving in the role of a delegate to the Delegate Assembly for the chapter. (If submitting a colleague's name, you must confirm with that person that he/she would actually be interested in serving in the position.) If you have any questions about what the duties and commitments of being a delegate are, you can contact Winfield Ihlow at ext 2558 or at Ihlow@oswego.edu. Please consider this way of helping our chapter serve the UUP membership. Thank you, Winfield Ihlow.

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