



**United University Professions
Albany Chapter**

**Labor-Management Minutes
January 24, 2022**

Preliminaries:

M. noted H.R. staff member Jennifer Killens will now be an administrative assistant.

L. noted UUP appreciation for ongoing work with IDA, and the good conversations regarding Covid since the last formal meeting. Also, a future discussion should be held in a separate meeting with David Banks regarding contingents.

1. Results of 2021 compression analysis. We would like to discuss the results of the 2021 compression analysis and, in particular, hear about any issues that may have arisen from management's side or that were raised to management by our members.

M. Compression info is posted to the website. Nothing has changed from last year. There have been zero calls or questions. The standard in place will continue for one more year until the next contract.

2. Spring 2022 COVID protocols. We are seeking information on some aspects of the campus's spring 2022 COVID protocols, specifically:

a. Any information that can be shared on pre-return test results from students, including percent of students tested and percent of those testing positive.

M. There are no numbers on student percentages since that will continue to be processed until early next week.

b. Plans for on-going surveillance testing (who will be tested and how frequently?)

M. There will be weekly surveillance required for students with vaccine exemptions. Faculty and staff members without vaccination record will also need weekly surveillance. There are gift card incentives to get students in general to take part in surveillance testing. The State needs to have conversations with other unions regarding vaccinations. SUNY is very high in terms of vaccination rate – 98%.

L. noted that submitting the QR code for the Excelsior Pass isn't working as proof of vaccination and the instructions need clarification. Also, an email reminder may be needed regarding the surveillance testing process. Also, students who are liaisons with high schools need clarification on Covid protocols because the institutions each have their own rules.

M. will follow-up.

3. Updates on announced return of College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, and "teaching and research" designation. We are seeking any updated information that the campus may have, including progress towards implementation and potential impacts of several items contained in the Governor's State of the State address, including:

a. The return of CNSE to UAlbany

M. A proposal needs to be written on how the transition will take place. We look forward to a smooth and thoughtful return of CNSE so employees won't feel uprooted. We don't see any negative impact.

L. And the nature of the public/private relationship?

M. Haven't seen anything empirical yet. The "flagship" statement did not go over well. If the development arm comes to UAlbany, that would make the school huge.

b. The creation of a distinction between the four research centers (with UAlbany and Binghamton labeled as "teaching and research universities")

c. The charge that each SUNY campus emphasizes a single, signature strength.

L. What about "signature strengths"? This can be fraught because some folks may feel left out. Also, we do a good job of adding diversity to the student body.

M. We got a lot of feedback and concern regarding signature strengths. We agree that if we were required to choose a sig. strength, it would have to be broad. There won't be much appetite for a singular strength. We want to own our strengths, but a signature strength can also be aspirational, not set. The designation may take years including the CNSE piece, and we want to do it right and thoughtfully.

L. It's a hopeful sign that the Governor made SUNY prominent in her speech. Advocacy regarding funding and closing the Tap Gap will get started in March. We're optimistic.

M. Agreed. Six million for the campus is needed. Also, we're hoping the contract negotiation is a speedy process.

Submitted respectfully,
Elizabeth Strum