Delegate Responsibilities and Roles

The delegates make up the governing body of UUP. They have chapter-level and state-level responsibilities. Delegates represent their chapter colleagues in UUP discussions, decision-making, and efforts to help solve problems. They also play an important role in facilitating chapter communications with members, serving as and recruiting department/building reps, and organizing the membership to become engaged in union activities. At the state level, delegates from all chapters meet each year. Their duties include establishing policies for the union, deciding on proposed amendments to the UUP Constitution, adopting UUP’s annual budget, and electing statewide officers and Executive Board members (UUP Constitution, Article VI).

Each chapter is allotted one delegate for every 75 members (Article VIII, Section 2c).

Delegates have a responsibility to represent the members of their chapters

All UUP Delegates Play an Important Role in the Chapter Work:

Developing and implementing the chapter’s plan to organize and activate chapter members

• Play a part in the one-on-one communication with members
  o Having personal conversations with members is the most effective organizing strategy
• Be a department/unit/building rep and recruit colleagues for this as well

Identifying issues colleagues are interested in and would be willing to work on

Recruiting members to get involved

Consider establishing chapter committees or work groups focused on specific issues and/or constituencies. Examples include Professionals Advisory Committee, Academics Advisory Committee, Contingent Employment Committee, Women’s Issues Committee, Workload Work Group, Technology Issues Committee, etc.

Spearheading chapter outreach – within and outside of the campus/hospital

• Collaboration with campus governance
• Collaboration with student groups
• Collaboration with other unions on campus
• Meetings with department chairs/professional unit heads
• Meetings with academic departments/professional units
• Participation in area labor councils
• Help build coalitions with other groups
Preparing for and Attending Delegate Assemblies is Critical

• Read materials posted online and in DA packets
• Solicit input from chapter members on issues the Delegate Assembly will deliberate on
• Participate in discussion and debate
• Represent chapter members’ perspectives and experiences in state-level discussions
• Actively participate in statewide committees when appointed to them
• Become informed about all UUP statewide committees in order to present chapter members with updates and opportunities to get involved in state-level work
• Report back to chapter colleagues about issues learned at the DA

Communicating with chapter colleagues & helping to document chapter issues for state-level discussion is necessary to empower our union

Serve as an information conduit between chapter members and UUP state-level work by disseminating information received from UUP Headquarters that is earmarked for distribution to the UUP membership (including e-mail messages, social media posts, informational fliers and brochures, UUP reports, etc.).

UUP Headquarters has no way to quickly communicate with every UUP member. It is the responsibility of delegates to assist the chapter president/office to use all avenues available to communicate with members when called upon to do so.

Taking actions and asking colleagues to do the same

Take immediate legislative and other political actions when called upon by UUP Headquarters and ask colleagues to do the same (e.g., contacting legislators to support UUP advocacy items)

UUP Delegate = Chapter Representative, Chapter Activist, State-Level Activist