

2025-2026 Retiree Taskforce Report

The Retiree Taskforce meetings were held monthly for several months via Zoom. After reviewing the report from the previous taskforce, we decided to examine some of the unresolved issues as well as present new ideas

1. Should retirees vote on issues affecting active members?

Since these are done at a delegate assembly and retirees are elected as delegates by the chapter members, our consensus was yes.

2. Should a limit be placed on the number of retirees elected as delegates?

While retiree membership has increased from 12% in 2016 to 19% in 2025, their participation in the Delegate Assembly has dropped from 22% in 2016 to 18% in 2025. Therefore, there is no need to limit retiree delegates.

3. Should retirees be allowed to be elected as chapter officers, treasurer or secretary?

Currently there are several chapters that have the situation where a retiree serves as treasurer or secretary. The committee was against a retiree serving as a chapter officer. However, chapter presidents need to put more pressure on active members to accept these other positions. We are suggesting that no nominations to fill those positions by retirees be accepted until the chapter president declares a special circumstance (i.e. the inability to get an active member to fill those positions) and makes a request to allow a retiree to fill those positions.

4. Vesting Period:

If someone leaves UUP prior to retirement (not necessarily to another SUNY position) after having paid dues for at least 7 years, they may join as a retiree.

Background: PEF Retiree membership is free for the 1st year. Then dues are collected each year on the anniversary of retiree membership. In addition, PEF retirees who had no prior dues paying can join but their benefits are decreased.

NYSUT: most teachers (K-12) pay a small amount of their dues towards retiree membership, that is why they have close to 270,000 retiree members. Each retiree chapter and council can have voluntary participation fees which go towards local retiree events.

CSEA: retirees can join as an associate retiree member (dues \$52) or as a regular retiree member (dues \$36).

Additionally, PEF & CSEA have associate membership with possible reduction in benefits or similar title retiree membership and even spouse membership to consider.

5: For those eligible to join as a retiree, the first year's membership will be free as measured from September-to-September (our normal membership year).

For example: they retire in September of 2026 then dues payment begins September 2027. For someone retiring any time after September 2026, their dues would still be due September 2027. This could simplify things for staff in Albany, since now anyone that pays dues after September must be followed and have their dues prorated for the next year. Also, this could lead to more retirees joining.

6. Given the current political climate resulting in less federal funding coming to democratic states, it is likely that UUP will need to do more in the coming year, which will mean a higher expenditure of funds. It is proposed that we increase the % we pay those that work for the retirees. An increase of 1% would cost approximately \$7189

We have staff working for us that don't receive funds from the retirees. For example, other staff man the phones during breaks such as Christmas. It was expressed that 90% of the calls are from retirees.

7. The Retiree Task Force should reconvene in 9 years.