



John Schmidt/Aff
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Subject Report On Emergency Budget Meeting

Dear Colleagues:

President Kenny called an "emergency" budget meeting yesterday afternoon. Attending were representatives from the various unions, the university Hospital and the university Senate and various staff reporting to the President.

The meeting began with an overview of the situation. The initial "cut" to the operating budget for Stony Brook is approx \$ 5.5 mill. (2.9%). The second and perhaps more significant hit is an "impoundment" of revenue associated with the following campus funds:

- 1- Tuition
- 2- Income Fund Reimbursable accounts
- 3- Hospital
- 4- Stabilization
- 5- Veterans Home
- 6- SUTRA

With respect to the initial cut (\$ 5.5 mill), I queried as to what plans the university had with respect to distribution of that amount. Other than to say that we "could deal with such an amount" (SSK), no specific implementation details were provided.

It is clear that university management is focused on the second hit. On my further inquiry as to implementation of this piece, an impact statement has been prepared. Here are the details:

1- Tuition - this would lay an additional \$ 2-3 mill on top of the \$ 5.5. Two examples of impact are cited. The first would be a reduction of 79 Teaching Assistant positions affecting 158 teaching sections per year. The second, using an average adjunct salary of \$ 3,500 per section would prevent us from teaching 657 sections per year affecting a combined (est.) headcount of 19,000. These two actions taken together would reduce, by 20% the number of undergraduate course offerings in the College of Arts & Sciences.

It is important to note that while cut # 2 is defined as a revenue impoundment, a reduction of tuition revenue does, in fact, impact the operating budget.

2- Income Fund Reimbursable Accounts - Reducing the spending authority in the IFR fund could force the campus to impose reductions in to a number of important self-supporting initiatives. The university cites the Student Health Service (elimination of medical staff and counselors), other student fees (technology, transportation and course

fees) and "pass through fees" (contractual obligations to the dept. of Social Services, Office of Mental Health and dept. of Conservation).

3- Hospital - In the words of Steven Strongwater, the proposed spending reductions "will put patient safety and access to care at risk in Suffolk County, threaten the School of Medicine's academic and research missions, and negatively impact the region's economy".

4- Stabilization - Imposing an expenditure reduction on the campus' Stabilization fund could seriously impact the Empire Innovation Program (EIP). The bulk of this fund is targeted to help fund the start-up packages of key researchers. Since the competition for these individuals is intense, reducing the available funds could result in us not attracting high-quality researchers.

5- Veterans Home - Basically, the same kind of impact as an expenditure reduction to university hospital.

6- Residence Halls - Revenues are generated entirely from rental charges paid by resident students and are used exclusively to support the operation of on-campus residence halls and apartments. Forced reductions will adversely affect our ability to properly provide for the safety and well-being of the resident student population. Major categories of expense in this fund are determined by factors beyond our immediate control, including debt service, utilities and negotiated salary increases/benefits.

NEXT STEPS:

I indicated that NYSUT has made their lobbying staff available to UUP. I indicated that Alan Lubin and Carl McCall had appointments with the Governor. I indicated that UUP would shortly have a FAX your legislator procedure in place and would make such a procedure available to the university community.

Other ideas floated were a "special" STONY BROOK Day in Albany (UUP might want to consider an **all Chapters** event). The president would like to schedule a Town Meeting to advise the campus community of the serious nature of this situation. The student rep to the meeting suggested a letter-writing campaign.

Time is an important factor!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

As more information/process becomes available, I will keep you advised.

John

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