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Subject: Commission on Higher Education

Dear Colleagues,

As most of you know, the Governor's Commission on Higher Education released its preliminary report yesterday. The Commission's charge was to develop a plan to improve higher education in New York - with emphasis on strengthening the State's public higher education institutions.

The good news is that the Commission's findings confirm several of UUP's long-standing assertions: for too long the state-operated campuses have suffered from severe under funding by the state, and SUNY and CUNY critically need significant increase in full-time faculty.

The Commission recommends a total of 2000 new full-time faculty positions for SUNY and CUNY combined. While this is not nearly enough to make up for the years of under-funding, their recommendation for more full-time faculty is a good start. In addition, the Commission recommends only partial state funding to increase our faculty ranks, with the balance of the support coming from philanthropy, enrollment growth and higher tuition. We are urging that the State provide full State funding to accomplish this objective.

I attended the Governor's news conference at the state Capitol yesterday and afterward I was interviewed by a number of radio, television and newspaper report on our reaction to the report. I'm attaching our news release on the Commission's report for your information.

We are in the process now of fully analyzing the report and preparing our more detailed response to it once the Commission schedules public hearings.

Sincerely,

Fred



CHE news release12-17.doc