

*The*

# GSO News

**And Blues**

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## Gearing Up to Play Hardball with SUNY

By George Bidermann

Kept clear of a November 14 SUNY Board of Trustees luncheon by SUNY Buffalo administrators who sealed off an entire floor of the campus's library, graduate student leaders demanding the right to collective bargaining were preparing to make their presence felt at the November 15 trustees meeting as the *News and Blues* went to press.

Members of the United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY (UGSO), working in conjunction with Buffalo's Graduate Action Committee and the Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU), had planned two days of activity to coincide with the trustees' luncheon and meeting in Buffalo. They had originally planned to picket the luncheon, held November 14 at the university center in Buffalo, but Buffalo administrators took extra steps to insulate the trustees from the demonstrators, according to Chris Vestuto, projects director of UGSO. Both uniformed and plainclothes public safety officers patrolled the library, preventing access to elevators leading to the fourth floor poetry and rare books room, where the luncheon was held.

Many workers on the fourth floor were given the day off, according to Vestuto, and the whole floor was closed to public traffic. "It's truly sad that Buffalo's administration closed down an academic function in order to shield the trustees from dialogue with the people whose interests the trustees are supposed to represent," Vestuto said. "Not only did they inhibit the free exchange of ideas, but in the process they also interfered with the normal academic functions of the university."

Stony Brook GSO President Jane Ely, who is also chair of UGSO, went to Buffalo with the hope of addressing the trustees. She said the actions of Buffalo's administration seemed consistent with SUNY's "total disregard for graduate students' rights to self-determination. We are continually locked out of the process, and we now have little recourse but to intensify our efforts."

Not to be deterred, the students posted hundreds of pro-union fliers at the entrances and on the walls of the campus's earthquake center, which the trustees toured after lunch. The trustees could not fail to see these, Vestuto said.

This activity was but a warm-up for

the actual trustees meeting, which was to be held the next day, November 15, at nearby Buffalo State College. Unfortunately, the *News and Blues* went to press just before this meeting; details of the meeting will be published in the December issue. However, Buffalo students were ready to be heard, according to Buffalo GSA President Jeff McFarland, who spoke to a reporter the night before the meeting.

McFarland said that Judith Krebs, president of the Student Association of the State Universities (SASU) and the only student member of the board, was to introduce a resolution at the meeting (see copy on this page) asking that the board instruct SUNY to drop its opposition to graduate students' rights to collective bargaining. McFarland said that he was hoping a member of the board would second the motion, which would then open the floor to discussion. "If the motion is seconded, we intend to take part in the discussion," he said.

While McFarland admitted the chances of the trustees voting in favor of the

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### Text of Krebs' Resolution

The following resolution was scheduled to be moved by SASU President Judith Krebs, the only student member of the Board of Trustees, at the November 15 meeting. Sadly, by the time you read this, it will most likely have been killed by the trustees.

WHEREAS, the right to collective bargaining is a fundamental right of all workers, recognized under both federal and state law, and

WHEREAS, SUNY's Teaching, Graduate and Research Assistants receive compensation for their services and are employees, and

WHEREAS, most other public universities legally recognize their TA's, GA's and RA's as employees whether or not their employees are unionized, and

WHEREAS, graduate student employees at some state universities have chosen to unionize while others have not, and

WHEREAS, New York is one of the only states which has continued to deny this fundamental right of employee self determination, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED,

that the SUNY Board of Trustees instruct the Chancellor and all other SUNY administrators to immediately withdraw SUNY's opposition to Teaching, Research and Graduate Assistants' right to collective bargaining, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that this change in position be communicated posthaste to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and the New York State Public Employment Relations Board.

## Cuomo Orders More SUNY Budget Cuts

By Daniel R. Schaffer

*Reprinted from the Graduate Voice*

BINGHAMTON- SUNY and other state agencies were recently ordered by Governor Mario Cuomo to submit plans to cut their current budgets from three to seven percent and to freeze all hiring and travel expenditures.

The order will cost SUNY between \$30 million and \$70 million this year, according to the Student Association of the State Universities (SASU), but officials at SUNY Central administration said that it was "too early to tell" exactly what effect the executive order would have on university operations.

The budget-cutting order came November 6 after Cuomo predicted that New York's budget deficit could reach \$825 million due to tax shortfalls and a growing recession in the northeast United States. The order instructed agencies to come up with plans to cut their budgets by three, five, or seven percent; the size of the cut will be determined after the state learns more about its revenue shortfall situation.

Meanwhile, the state faces a possible

budget deficit of \$1 billion to \$3 billion for the next fiscal year.

The mid-year budget cut places campuses in a serious financial bind after spending much of last spring and summer making budget cuts. "We're really not prepared for it," said Glenn Watts, vice president for finance and management at Stony Brook. "Nobody was prepared for it." Watts explained that, "The problem is that it's very late in the fiscal year. What is a three percent cut on an annual basis is [much higher] with less than half a year left."

In other words, because there is less time in the budget year to absorb the cuts, they will have a harsher impact on programs during the remainder of the year. The system was faced with a similar crisis in the middle of the last school year when Cuomo ordered a two percent cut to the budget in the middle of the academic year.

According to Watts, who runs finance operations at SUNY's second largest campus, most of the cutting will have to come from faculty and staff lines. "The problem is that 80% of our

budget is tied up in salaries. We're a people enterprise. You really can't address a budget reduction of that size without affecting salaries. That means impacting on services," he said. "If you're cut-

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# Choice Denied— Again

Choice is a basic freedom that is currently denied to graduate students in New York State. Over the last ten years, graduate students throughout the state have discussed the pros and cons of unionization. This discussion, while important for education purposes, is basically meaningless. Why? Because we do not have the basic right to vote on the issue of unionization. The key issue is self determination, not whether or not unionization is a positive or negative step for graduate students.

As the *News and Blues* goes to press, graduate students from Binghamton and Buffalo are preparing to take political action to secure rights that all other state employees have-- the right to decide if they want to unionize as a collective bargaining unit.

More than 70 graduate students will be attending the SUNY Board of Trustees meeting in Buffalo on November 15 to support a resolution that will ask Chancellor Johnstone to remove SUNY's opposition to a student vote on unionization. If denied, these students are prepared to disrupt the meeting to demonstrate the need for self determination. These tactics have been deemed necessary because SUNY Central has not responded to the needs of graduate students.

For over a year, the United Graduate Student Organization of SUNY (UGSO) has pressed SUNY Central on the issue of health insurance. SUNY Central's report on health insurance contends that many "peer" institutions do not provide subsidized health insurance for their graduate student employees. This alone shows clear evidence

This is where our editorial cartoon was supposed to go, but our artist got sick and couldn't draw it. It was supposed to depict the sum total of what SUNY had given in terms of ground this year, that is, in acknowledging the role its graduate student employees play in the system. It was to have been a beautiful cartoon, witty and yet poignant, too. We thought it would be funny to try to illustrate just what SUNY had given us this year but, because our cartoonist got sick (with inadequate health benefits to cover the illness, we might add), we wound up with nothing here, or next to nothing, as did you. Talk about irony...

of SUNY's priorities— graduate student health insurance is not one of them. UGSO's response questioned the data presented and the methodology employed in SUNY's report. SUNY's commitment to actually addressing the problem was also questioned. SUNY's answer to our demands for health insurance benefits, a small stipend increase that students are theoretically supposed to use to purchase "insurance," falls far short of what graduate students employees deserve from their employers.

Graduate students must actively express our demands for recognition from SUNY of our unique needs and concerns. Members of UGSO and graduate students

involved on the state-wide level believe that only through the push for self-determination can we effectively express these needs to SUNY. In the past, Stony Brook has taken the lead in fighting for the rights of all graduate students. It is time for us to take this lead once again.

Over the next two months, the GSO and the Grad Action committee will be holding information meetings on the departmental level as well as general meetings each week. We need your participation. In order to deal intelligently with these issues we all must know what the issues are. We urge you all to get involved.

A united voice is our strongest voice.

## *The GSO News and Blues* Volume 1, Number 3

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Elizabeth Chute, Secretary  
Sanjay Gupta, Speaker of the Senate

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## *News and Blues* in Newsprint; Here's the Bland Particulars

With this issue, *The GSO News and Blues* marks its appearance as a monthly newspaper, a new format that gives us options that were not available in its earlier incarnation. First off, as you have noticed by now, the *News and Blues* is being printed on newsprint in tabloid size. Producing a newsletter in the GSO office, which included duplicating, stapling and distributing more than 2,500 copies each month, was becoming too much for our office staff to handle.

A newspaper gives us more space to get more information out to you and gives us room to include advertising, a necessary evil if we are to cover the cost of producing the paper. We appreciate the support of the Faculty Student Association and encourage other organizations and departments on campus to consider advertising in the paper. Advertising info is on page 6.

We will also, beginning with the December issue (scheduled to come out December 12), run free classified advertisements for graduate students. Classified ads may

include for sale, room to let/sublet, and personals. The *News and Blues* will run classified ads up to 30 words free of charge, with a ten-cent-per-word charge over 30 words; submission forms may be picked up and filled out at the GSO office.

We also want to invite readers to submit letters, viewpoints, and especially articles to the *News and Blues*. Letters should be kept to approximately 400 words and viewpoints 800 to 1,000 words, and may concern any topic. Likewise, we welcome articles for inclusion in the paper, whether they are related to campus issues or not. We want articles that reflect the broad areas of our readers' studies and research as well as what's going on in their minds.

The *News and Blues* will be distributed each month to graduate mailrooms and, in addition, can be found in the Main Library, Student Union, Humanities Building, Harri-man Cafe, and the main lobby of University Hospital. Deadline for submission of ads, letters and articles for the December 12 issue will be Wednesday, December 5.

# Grad Action Trying to Get Things Moving

## Written by Grad Action

Every Monday at 5 pm a group of graduate students meets in the offices of the GSO. We call ourselves Grad Action and we plan to do something about mandatory fees and other regressive SUNY policies. We want to organize the graduate students and get them to vote on a union. Graduate students who teach courses, do research and work in university offices are employees, but we don't get employee benefits.

Instead we get:

- Absurdly low stipends. Students and their dependents are expected to survive on stipends that

are at or below the poverty level.

- No Health Insurance benefits. Result: students cannot afford to insure themselves or their dependents.

- Tuition waivers are the one benefit TA's and RA's do have. But budget cuts are putting pressure on this. Already many waivers are paid out of research budgets. Tuition waivers have been decoupled from stipends and in the future, supported students may have to pay their own tuition or a part of it. Departments are bound to fulfill the terms of acceptance for students who are presently enrolled.

- Mandatory fees. To cover the budget gap, the university is trying to impose health and transportation fees, among others. The package has already exceeded \$100 per academic year.

Budgets are shrinking. The administrators will put pressure on all parts of the university to come up with the "missing" money. Faculty and staff are unionized. They are not going to pay; their contracts protect them from the impositions of non-negotiated fees. So it's grad students who will disproportionately bear the burden if we don't organize now.

Grad Action intends to do just that. We're in the process of organizing an anti-fee rally for December 5. We hope enough people will show up to convince SUNY that we mean business.

But just showing up is not enough. We need people in every department not only to distribute information, but also to keep us informed about what's going on in individual departments. You are also more than welcome to plan along with us. If you want to help, or find out more, leave a message at the GSO (632-6492). Better yet, come to one of our meetings, which are held every Monday at 5 pm in the GSO office, Room 206 in Central Hall. You're invited for dinner.

## SUNY Board of Trustees Vote Denies Graduate Students Health Insurance

By Jeff McFarland

Reprinted from the Buffalo Graduate Post

ALBANY- The year-long struggle of graduate students statewide to obtain health insurance as a benefit of employment has proven to be an effort in futility. On Thursday, October 26, SUNY's Board of Trustees voted by 9 to 1 to deny graduate students a program of health insurance consistent with that of other employees in the SUNY system.

In a report to the trustees first presented in September, SUNY Central Administration proposed a \$2 million increase in "graduate student support" (stipend increases) under the guise of helping to address the need of SUNY's graduate student employees for health insurance benefits. Graduate student leaders statewide were asking for full funding of a program comparable to that received by faculty and staff.

The United Graduate Students Organization (UGSO) responded to the trustees' desire for more information on the issue by producing a 16-page response. Despite this wealth of information and a series of suggested alternatives and additions to the SUNY Central report and recommendation, the trustees still adopted SUNY's recommendation without including any of UGSO's ideas.

At the meeting several trustees, most notably Dr. Nancy Nielson of Buffalo, spoke out in favor of the unique position of graduate students and their specific health insurance needs. She characterized these as a "basic human need" and something that should not be equated with a graduate student's need to pay car insurance or purchase other "luxury" items.

Criticism of the plan to support health insurance for graduate students came from Trustee Hazel Dukes. Dukes took exception to "making two sets of students for our schools. Many undergraduate students do not have health insurance," she said.

Nielson countered by saying that, "There is a basic difference. Graduate students are performing a function for SUNY. They perform an actual function that if they did not perform, we would be hiring either adjunct or full-time faculty [to perform]. That makes them different."

Chancellor D. Bruce Johnstone continued his position of maintaining graduate student employees are students primarily and professors-in-training secondarily. "Their first role is as students. There's no question we would save money by going out and hiring part-timers," he said.

Buffalo area Trustee Arnold Gardner, in characterizing graduate students as "indentured servants," changed the context of the discussion to one of graduate student collective representation to address the issue of health insurance.

After continued posturing from the trustees and SUNY administrators, which graduate student leaders had no part of, it became apparent that graduate students were being excluded from even taking part in the discussion. Even more alarming and predictable

(Continued on Page 6)

## Grad Students Fight Back!

- Decent Wages
- Health Insurance
- Budget Cuts
- Tuition Waivers
- Rising Fees

**Grad  
Action**

**We meet every Monday  
in the GSO Office  
Room 206 Central Hall  
5:00 PM**



# New Group Bridging the "GAP" to World Peace

A new organization supported by the GSO is taking action to solve environmental and peace problems. The Stony Brook chapter of an international environmental organization, Global Action Plan for the Earth (GAP), is developing several progressive campus-based environmental projects. Most recently, however, GAP has been working to organize a student peace movement on campus.

On October 24, GAP organized a Seven Minutes for World Peace rally, which coincided with rallies held worldwide. GAP put together a rally in front of the Staller Center that included speeches by professors from several countries, original music by Mike DePhillips and Jeff Armadore, a skit by theater department students depicting the bonds that can break international borders, and a video presentation of the world's largest peace event, the First Earth Run.

Minutes before the 1 pm EST international silence was held in observance of Seven Minutes of World Peace, a new student from Kuwait, Shadia Sachedina, arrived on stage raising the torch of peace that was carried around the world in the 1986 First Earth Run, which was organized by international activist David Gershon, who is now chairman and founder of GAP international.

Dr. Femi Vaughan, a professor in the Africana Studies program who is a specialist in international relations, opened the rally with a discussion of the strength of diversity. Dr. Vaughan pointed out that "America is made up of many cultures and many racial and religious experiences, but unfortunately, America has not been able to tap into its strength but rather used this element of diversity to work against it.... We cannot continue to live in cocoons."

Economics Professor Michael Zweig alerted the audience that, "We are in dangerous times.... We need to develop a peace movement on campus." A member of the National Coalition for Peace in the Middle East, Zweig focused on the need for the United States to be subordinate to the United Nations rather than unilaterally initiating military action.

In an emotional speech, USB GAP Chapter President John Nolan urged students to get involved in working for peace. "We cannot afford to sit back and be passive," he said. "If we are passive, we are part of the problem. Starting right now, we have to be part of the solution." Nolan, a graduate student in Technology and Society, asked students to send articles and letters to President George Bush, U.S. troops overseas, and even Saddam Hussein, demanding a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Also addressing the crowd were speakers Lester Paldy, director of the Arms Control and Peace Studies Center, and Sergei Ostroumov, visiting environmental scientist from Moscow University. Both speakers addressed new opportunities for cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union.



Holding the torch during the seven minutes of world peace are (from left) Diane Farr, Shadia Sachedina, John Nolan, and Bill Kneissi.

Later, Nolan voiced concern that society is being overwhelmed by the complexity and gravity of the problems of the times. "My goal is to create an organization that will help people get a clearer picture of some of our problems. The real goal, however, is to make it easier for people to get into action to solve the problems that concern them," he said. "Plenty of students complain about the lack of campus recycling. GAP is putting together a recycling project that will bring students and administrators together to solve this problem. We're going to create Ecoteams of different student groups, departments, and dorms that will compete to make the greatest contribution to the environment." Nolan also said he is working with campus newspapers to set up regular coverage of Ecoteam and campus-wide progress.

GAP is working on several other campaigns as well. One is the "Billion Pound Diet," a carbon dioxide emissions reduction program. In addition, GAP is working with NYPIRG and the Faculty Stu-

dent Association to develop environmentally sound guidelines for upcoming food service contracts and working with Professor Zweig on behalf of the National Coalition for Peace in the Middle East to develop a student peace movement. With the help of President John Marburger and Professor Ostroumov, GAP is trying to establish a student exchange program with the University of Moscow. As an ongoing project, GAP is also developing a career database for full-time and part-time environmental job openings.

GAP is looking for people to get involved with existing projects and invites new ideas as well. According to Nolan, this is the first university-based chapter of GAP in the nation. The progress made at Stony Brook will be watched closely by the international coordinators as they prepare for their major global introduction on Earth Day 1991. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Global Action Plan can contact John Nolan at the GSO office, Room 206 Central Hall, or call 632-6492.

## New Budget Committee Guidelines Working Their Way to GSO Senate

By Andrew Uselton  
GSO Treasurer

The Budget Committee has proposed to the GSO Senate a set of standard operating procedures in the hope that the actions of the Budget Committee will be clear and consistent from year to year. This set of standards is collectively known as the Budget Committee Guidelines. In December, the GSO Senate will be called upon to vote on the adoption of the Budget Committee Guidelines.

The Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 20 at 6:00PM in the GSO office, Room 206 Central Hall to discuss possible refinements in the document. All are welcome to join us in that discussion. You may pick up a copy of the Budget Committee Guidelines in the GSO office.

One area that is in need of refinement is the administration of Resource Access Project (RAP) funds. For many years the GSO has supported the professional advancement of graduate students by helping to fund attendance at conferences. The usual rule is that anyone presenting a paper at a conference may be awarded support, usually \$100 to \$150. There has been a problem, at times, with applications for support when the event to be attended is not a conference.

Music students do not often present academic papers. They do give invited performances, however. The Budget Committee needs to come up with a clear set of guidelines that awards support for this sort of activity.

The GSO Senate is charged with the responsibility of approving GSO expenditures, and this takes place not only when the budget for the year is discussed and ratified, but also at each monthly Senate meeting. The Executive Committee of the GSO is permitted to spend as much as \$100 without consulting the Budget Committee or the Senate. Since the Senate only meets once a month, you can imagine how inconvenient this is at times.

Recently the Budget Committee decided to suggest an amendment to the Budget Committee Guidelines. The proposal is to raise the limit above which Senate approval must be sought. The Budget Committee would be authorized to approve spending as much as, say, \$500. This would alleviate the need for discussing trivial matters at Senate meetings.

The Budget Committee Guidelines have not even been formally adopted yet and there are modifications being suggested. Such is the life of a working document. If you would like to have some input into these matters then please join us at our next meeting.

### Next Meeting Of the GSO Senate

Wednesday, December 12  
7:30 PM  
Room 201, Central Hall

*Please make sure your  
department is represented!*

# October and November Senate Roundups

By Elizabeth Chute  
GSO Secretary

The GSO Senate held its October meeting on Wednesday, October 10. Andrea Kwasny, the Graduate Student Advocate, spoke to the Senate about the importance of graduate students working collectively within departments to solve common problems. Though the formal grievance process is working well, there have been incidents of individuals being singled out by resentful faculty members.

By working together, however, graduate students in several departments have enacted structural changes in their programs. For instance, students in the Psychology department were able to work together to have the written exam requirement abolished; students in the English department were able to totally revise their departments' requirements for the degree and to change the comprehensive exams to better suit them for the current job market; and in Marine Sciences, students organized against and prevented a change in department policy that would have de-coupled tuition waivers and stipend levels. If enacted, this change would have left students responsible for paying their own tuition. If there are problems in your department, find out if they affect others as well, and seek the solution within your department.

Another important discussion involved a cartoon published in *Statesman* on Monday, September 17, that many senators found offensive. One in a series called "Buggers," the cartoon was an attempt at humor against foreign faculty members that made fun of a fictitious professor's accent. In a subsequent issue of the newspaper, a letter

written by a group of graduate students from the Philosophy department was published; the writers asked that the paper print an apology, but no apology or editorial comment was printed. Due to this apparent lack of sensitivity, the Senate voted not to fund the newspaper this year.

In other motions passed by the Senate the GSO:

- supported a resolution against US intervention in the Middle East;
- resolved not to provide funds to NYPIRG until the Executive and Budget Committees can resolve whether or not we have to uphold the referendum to fund them;
- resolved that under no circumstances should Public Safety be allowed to possess or store firearms; and
- resolved to oppose any all bus fees.

## November Meeting

The GSO Senate held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 7. Dick Wueste, the assistant vice-president for Institutional Services, was invited to speak about the university's proposed bus fee, which could be instituted as a user fee as early as next semester. The fee, which Wueste said he believes is necessary, would first have to be approved by President John Marburger. A lengthy discussion followed Wueste's initial presentation.

The university's transportation problems are, according to Wueste, serious. Buses do not run as often as the university would like, and with the newest bus in the university's fleet being 17 years old, they are prone to frequent breakdowns. The campus purchased six new buses this year and, since the cost had to

be absorbed by the campus, the university has proposed the bus fee to help recover the cost and improve service.

Wueste said he is now negotiating with employee unions on campus in the hope that they will agree to pay into the fee program. If all members of the campus community paid the fee, as Wueste claimed is the case at many campuses nation-wide, no one group would be singled out to support the entire system. This transportation/parking fee, which could cost \$25 per semester or more, could become a mandatory fee starting with the fall, 1991 semester if approved by Marburger and the Stony Brook Council.

Wueste said that if the bus fee is not put into place, the university will have no other choice but to call in an outside transportation company, which he said would charge \$1 per ride. Vice President Ray Maietta, a member of the campus Priorities Committee, challenged Wueste's conclusion, saying that it was the committee's opinion that if the fee were not instituted, the cost of the new buses would possibly be added into the campus's debt for this fiscal year.

In other business, Sanjay Gupta was confirmed by the Senate as Speaker of the House. President Jane Ely told the Senate of plans to demonstrate at the SUNY Board of Trustees' meetings on November 14 and 15 in Buffalo. Graduate students from Buffalo and Binghamton, as well as members of the

United Graduate Student Organizations of SUNY, will attend these meetings to urge the Trustees to overturn SUNY's opposition to efforts to hold a union certification election (see related story, page 1). Creative protest and picketing were said to be on the agenda.

It was also announced that cuts in the library's budget will cause drastic limitations of service to the university community. Hours will be shortened, as will the number of employees working on the tremendous job of reshelving all of the books used and returned. It is expected that the cost of journals will probably rise 20% this year, with an allowance of only a four percent increase included in the budget.

The Action Committee reported that undergraduates are looking into several alternatives planned for students who do not want to pay a bus fee. These include the possibility of setting up a bus service run through Polity and developing a campus-wide sense of community to defend the university from the many cuts that are affecting it at the present time. The committee also announced that it will no longer use the collective, male noun "Dudes" on its posters as many people found the use of the word offensive. No offense was intended.

Because of the length of time consumed on discussion of the bus fee, several committee reports were put off until the December meeting, which will be held on December 12.

## Student Leaders Lighting Fire Under SUNY and Trustees-

(Continued from Page 1)

resolution were slim, he said that he thought "an attainable goal would be to get them to table the resolution rather than vote it down. At least it would show that they are willing to listen to the argument for unionization, and study it further rather than vote it down outright. It would then leave us an open door to continue dialogue on the issue."

Student leaders said they had every intention of making their point at the meeting. Several vanloads of students from SUNY Binghamton were making the trip, and McFarland expected a good turnout from Buffalo's graduate student population. "If the trustees vote the resolution down or, worse yet, refuse to second it," he said, "we are planning to take the table and force them to hear what we have to say." McFarland estimated that about 70 graduate students would attend the meeting.

SUNY Buffalo has seen a resurgence in union activity this fall. In September, students marched through campus build-

ings and held an afternoon rally demanding the right to vote on unionization. The GSA's action committee has, in effect, become the campus chapter of the Graduate Student Employees Union, McFarland said. It has been holding regular meetings, posting campus with information, and going to individual departments to educate the students about what unionization would mean for graduate student employees.

Much of this work has been carried out under the leadership of Julia Miller, GSA vice-president of external affairs and chair of the action committee. Miller said the actions at the November trustees meeting were but a prelude to intensified efforts to force SUNY to give up its opposition to unionization for its graduate student employees. "Whether or not we get on the agenda at this meeting," she said, "they are going to hear from us. The trustees and SUNY should know that there will be no peace for them until we win the right to hold a certification election."

## GSA Corner

### Collective Student Action Does Pay Off Occasionally

By Andrea Kwasny  
Graduate Student Advocate

This is the first of what I hope will be monthly articles on news from the Graduate School. First, I'd like to remind you that the Graduate Student Advocate can help you with a variety of problems attendant to graduate student life at Stony Brook, problems like IRS audits, residency changes and of course, grievances. I'm at the Graduate School Monday through Thursday from 12 Noon to 4 PM.

Just as a reminder, if you are a U.S. citizen and don't file for New York State residency by the end of this semester, you will be liable for the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. More valuable information: there are two channels through which to go if you need an emergency loan. First, there's the Graduate Student Stipend Advance Program, which will provide an advance on your teaching or research stipend. Also, there's the Short Term Advance Program, which loans money against financial aid that hasn't been received yet but is forthcoming, up

to \$700. The loan is then paid off, with 15% compounded interest, when the aid comes in. Applications for both types of advances are available at the Financial Aid Office in the Administration building.

I'm currently collecting information about departmental grievance committees, and will provide some kind of summary on the responses in next month's column. Let me just remind you that graduate students are organizing in many departments to effect change. For example, graduate students in Marine Sciences received a firm commitment that their stipends would not be decoupled from their tuition waivers. Also, grad students in the Psychology and English departments changed their departments' policies on the comprehensive exams.

Not only does this kind of community action thwart attempts to single out the department radical, malcontent, or garden variety troublemaker, it is strong evidence that graduate students can make a serious impact when we're organized.

# Surprise! Mid-year Tuition Hike Possible

By Eric Coppolino

Student Leader Press Service

ALBANY- The State University is expected to seek a mid-year tuition hike as part of its response to the state fiscal crisis, according to Judith Krebs, president of the Student Association of the State University (SASU).

The possible mid-year hike of \$50 to \$100, if approved in an upcoming emergency session of the state legislature and then signed by Governor Mario Cuomo, would take effect in the spring semester. If approved, it would be the first time SUNY tuition has been increased since 1983, mainly due to the opposition of Cuomo, who had long held that attending the university should be free. But he has recently been wavering in his position, indicating that he would be "open minded" about a tuition hike if the legislature asked for one.

Had SUNY tuition kept pace with inflation, it would

be about \$1,800 today. However, non-tuition costs, like books and living expenses, have increased about \$2,500 in the past seven years.

This tuition hike would be on top of the health fee, the parking fee, and other new mandatory fees taking effect this semester and next year, and would still leave open the possibility of a massive tuition hike that would take effect next fall.

Next fall's tuition hike has been placed by Albany and local campus sources at possibly \$600 per year.

Requesting the unprecedented mid-year hike would be part of SUNY's response to Cuomo's order to cut its budget between three and seven percent (approximately \$24 million to \$105 million) due to projected state revenue shortfalls of \$824 million. All state agencies have been affected by the order, and many campuses were reported to be implementing spending freezes far

beyond what SUNY is by law required to implement. Krebs said that raising tuition in response to the budget crisis was "charging students for the recession," which she said that SASU, while willing to discuss tuition, could not endorse.

In a letter sent out to student government presidents last week, Krebs warned of this and other drastic cost-saving measures that might be used. Other measures being considered by SUNY to deal with the immediate crisis include firing additional permanent or tenured faculty, or "retrenchment," cutting enrollment, and closing campuses.

SUNY's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank Pogue told Student Leader Press Service that he had "no comment whatsoever" about SUNY's plan to ask for a tuition hike, but added that "it's no secret" that Chancellor Bruce Johnstone's financial plans for SUNY have long included raising tuition.

Johnstone has consistently maintained that tuition increases are necessary. In an interview with the New York State Student Leader last spring, Johnstone said that his five-year plan for the university system included raising tuition every year for the next five years.

"We were expecting this," said Pete Shipley, chair of the SUNY Fiscal Action Committee. "The state university has again failed to properly manage itself. SUNY always talks about charging students and cutting faculty and staff, but they never want to raise the question of what other universities across the nation are doing, and that is to cut management."

Shipley, who heads a Woodstock, NY-based lobby group focusing specifically on the university system, said that SUNY Trustee Chairman Fred Salerno should cut SUNY management 20%, as he recently did with New York Telephone, where he is president.

Shipley believes \$140 million a year could be saved by reducing 20% of the administration and management staff in the university, which he says has grown 20% during the past decade while faculty and staff levels have declined almost as much. "Any legislator who does not look at the option of cutting back SUNY management rather than raising tuition is going to find a revolt of SUNY students brought back into their district over this issue," Shipley said. "My committee will target any legislator who votes for this tuition hike."

## SUNY Board of Trustees Votes Against Graduate Student Health Insurance-

(Continued from Page 3)

was the disregard all the trustees gave to the information gathered by UGSO and presented in its response. This became most obvious when the trustees finally voted on the motion to include the \$2 million request in the budget as "graduate student support." Several times in the final draft of the UGSO response, the dangers of this move were highlighted, yet this never became an issue in the trustees' discussions.

The increase in support leaves graduate students short for several reasons. First, and most obvious, this is not a health insurance payment, and it in no way addresses the desire of graduate students to put in place a statewide program of comprehensive health insurance for all graduate student employees. In fact, it leaves graduate students right where they were one year ago, without any concrete commitment from SUNY to any form of insurance for graduate students. No budget request, no program, just a great deal of self-serving rhetoric.

Stipend increases like this one proposed to be for

health insurance acquisition are also taxed. They also very possibly take the place of the yearly cost-of-living increases graduate students usually receive along with all other employees of SUNY.

A \$300-per-student stipend increase also translates to an approximately \$15-per-pay-period increase in student stipends. This does not buy a \$485 health insurance plan and health center privileges, payment for which is due some time before most student employees receive their first stipend checks.

For graduate student leaders, this stipend increase is not health insurance. They asked for health insurance and got nothing that resembles it.

As Binghamton GSO President David Baranov stated, "These recent actions of the Board of Trustees and SUNY Central demonstrate their intransigence and disregard for graduate student issues and well-being. The time has come to drop all pretense of a benevolent Board of Trustees and press our demand for unionization."

## More Budget Cuts In Store for SUNY, State Agencies-

(Continued from Page 1)

ting people, you're seriously impacting programs. That's the only place you can get that kind of dollars."

SUNY Central says that more than 300 faculty and staff lines were eliminated this year after \$40 million to \$50 million in reductions below the level of last year's budget.

Lois DeFleur, SUNY Binghamton president, said that, "As of November 5, 1990, a hiring freeze will prohibit the filling of any position-- permanent or temporary-- by promotion, transfer, or new hire; that out-of-state travel and all air travel will be prohibited; that in-state travel for conference, seminars, retreats, and statewide or regional meetings will not be allowed; and that all planned contracts for outside services must be terminated if legally possible.

"These stringent budgetary measures will be in place until December 21," she said. "By then, I hope that we will have prepared a budget plan that, although necessarily involving reduced expenditures, will offer us some flexibility in meeting our responsibilities."

The New York State Student Leader contributed to this story.

## Advertising Information for The GSO News and Blues

Okay, this is going to be pretty basic, as we're running behind deadline and this has not been completely thought through.

The GSO News and Blues will accept advertising from on-campus groups, offices, departments, and organizations for university-related events or items of interest. ROTC and the other armed forces should heed this warning: Don't even think of trying to advertise here!

The rates are as follows:

**Classifieds: Free for grad students, 10 cents a word for all else**

**1" Box: \$10      2" Box: \$20**

**1/8 page: \$50      1/4 page: \$95      1/2 page: \$180      Full Page: \$350**

Prices include design, typesetting and (soon as we learn more about our new Pagemaker program) some nifty artwork possibilities. Call 632-6492 for more information.



# University Senate Has Openings on Many Committees

The GSO, as the representative body of graduate students on campus, is responsible for filling seats on numerous campus committees. Some of the most important of these committees are within the University Senate. What follows is a list and brief descriptions of the University Senate's standing committees. Committees that already have GSO appointees sitting on them will have that person's name listed at the end of the descriptions; committee seats which have not been filled will be designated with the word "Open."

If you are interested in representing the GSO on one of these committees, please call 632-6492 and leave a message. The Executive Committee is responsible for making appointments, subject to confirmation by the GSO Senate.

**Committee on Administrative Review:** It shall be the chief body of the Senate for reviewing and evaluating administrative performance and proposed reorganizations. It shall be consulted about and represented on all search committees at the level of Dean or above. (Open)

**Committee on Campus Environment:** It shall be the chief body of the Senate for making recommendations about the Stony Brook environment, including problems of communications, transportation, aesthetics, and the quality of life on campus. (Open)

**Committee on Computing and Communications:** It shall advise the appropriate administrators on matters pertaining to computing and communications on the campus. Further, this committee shall advise the directors of the Educational Communications Centers on the operation of those centers. (Open)

**Continuing Education Council:** It shall advise the Dean of the Continuing Education Department (CED) and monitor all aspects of the CED program. (Open)

**Committee on Education and Teaching Policy:** It shall review the educational process and recommend policy for improving the quality of academic and extra-academic activities. It shall define the minimal obligations of members of the academic staff in meeting their assigned duties and shall develop methods for the implementation of its policies. It shall also review and coordinate all curricular matters which are not limited to a single major academic unit. (Open)

**Graduate Council:** It shall advise the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies and monitor all aspects of the graduate program and research. (Matt Schneer, Andrea Kwasny, Jane Ely)

**Committee on the Library:** It shall advise on all aspects of libraries and to advise the appropriate administrators on the operation of the campus bookstores. (John Reinfelder)

**Committee on Library Personnel Policy:** It shall make recommendations to the Vice Presi-

dent for the Health Sciences for Health Science Library faculty and to the Provost for Main Campus Library faculty concerning all promotions or new appointments to continuing appointment positions or at the level of Associate Librarian and above. (Open)

**Committee on Long-range Planning:** It shall consider the substance and process of long-range planning at Stony Brook. It shall focus attention on the configuration of academic (and relevant supporting) programs 5 to 10 years ahead. (Open)

**Committee on Nominations:** It shall maintain current lists of faculty willing to serve in the Senate or on university committees, and shall

prepare slates of faculty nominees for regular Senate elections as well as for committees formed by the Senate or administrators. (Open)

**Research Committee:** It shall advise the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies on all aspects of research. (Kuimars Lalezaradeh)

**Committee on Resource Allocation & Budget:** It shall review budgetary procedures and priorities for resource allocation. It shall be consulted by the administration on these matters and on proposals for new colleges, schools and inter-collegiate programs, and it shall seek advice from other university committees whenever appropriate. (Chris Kushmerick)

## Advertisement

### FSA Health Insurance Plan Available to Graduate Students

Most graduate students are no longer covered by their parents' health insurance policies and must assume responsibility for their own health bills, which might include doctors' office visits, emergency-room treatment, x-rays, and hospital stays. Presently, the university does not contribute to any health insurance benefits for graduate students. Graduate students who are paid by the Research Foundation and classified as Research Project Assistants may buy into the Research Foundation health plan. This is a fairly comprehensive but expensive package. Most foreign students are required to be covered by a foreign student health plan administered through SUNY Central.

The only plan open to all Stony Brook students is the Student Accident and Sickness Insurance plan, which was designed by and for students and is administered by the Faculty Student Association (FSA). This policy covers the most common medical services needed by our students and allows participants to choose the doctors and the hospitals they wish to use, either locally or anywhere they are residing or visiting. This policy is underwritten by The Equitable, a major insurance carrier with an excellent track record. There is also an on-campus administrator available to help students who have problems with claims resolve them.

The plan is offered for semester or a full year. Although enrollment is now closed for the fall semester, applications for the Spring/Summer 1991 period will be taken at the Office of the Bursar starting December 1, 1990. Coverage will be effective from January 15, 1991 (if paid by that time) and extends through August 15, 1991. The cost for this period is \$228 (coverage for spouses and children is available at extra cost).

Information about the plan as well as applications for family coverage can be obtained from Mrs. Leta Edelson at the FSA Student Health Insurance Office, Room 149, Infirmary Building (behind the Student Union). The hours are 10 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Friday, and the number is 632-6054.

It is strongly advised that all graduate students be aware of their own health insurance coverage situation. Those who feel that their economic situation leaves them unable to afford even the basic health insurance coverage should contact the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) at 632-6492. The GSO can advise students on their options and is also interested in obtaining case information in its lobbying efforts for health insurance benefits.

The Faculty Student Association is a proud sponsor of the *GSO News and Blues*.

## Sound Advice:

Boycott the Daily News!  
Boycott the Daily News!  
Don't Ride Greyhound!  
Don't Ride Greyhound!  
Don't Fly Eastern!  
Don't Fly Eastern!

Stay  
Away  
from  
Grapes!

**Boycott  
the Daily  
News!**

**Don't  
Ride  
Greyhound!**

**Don't Fly  
Eastern!**

**Stay Away from Grapes!**

**Boycott the Daily News!**

**Don't Ride Greyhound!**

**Don't Fly Eastern!**

your nose to the grindstone and your shoulder to the wheel. Perseverance. One day at a time. Simple Simon met a pieman coming down the road. All good things must come to pass. Better a live chicken than a dead duck. Is it better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? Nah.... One of these days. Hello Jack. It's so hard to say goodbye. We love it here at Stony Brook. And SUNY loves us. Now I lay me down to sleep...Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Easy does it. Things gotta get better in a little while. You can't always get what you want. Just keep your nose to the grindstone and your shoulder to the wheel. (Donated by the Filler Society of America)

# Know Your GSO Senator

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name &amp; Phone</u>	<u>Confirmed?</u>
Anthropology	Elizabeth McGee	Yes
BEE (Ecology & Evolution)	Tim Morton	Yes
Continuing Education Dept.	Daniel Glasner	No
Comparative Studies	Claudia Montilla	Yes
Computer Science	Marc Neuberger	Yes
	Mike Hadjimichael	Yes
Economics	Brian Rose	No
Electrical Engineering	Raj Bridgelall	Yes
	Sanjay Sethi	Yes
English	Devoney Looser	Yes
ESM (Materials Science)	Gary Halada	No
Harriman	Daniel Rothman	Yes
	David Senator (alternate)	No
	Donald Brosen (alternate)	Yes
Hispanic Languages	Donna McGiboney	Yes
History	Andres Reggiani	Yes
Marine Sciences	John Reinfelder	Yes
	Francis Juanes	Yes
Music	Christina Dahl	Yes
	Stephanie Taylor	Yes
Pharmacology	Monica McTigue	Yes
Philosophy	Kevin Melchionne	Yes
Physiology	Chris Kushmerick	Yes
Political Science	Mike Wild	Yes
Psychology	Kuimars Lalezarzadeh	No
	Fred Mayer	Yes
	Eric Siegel	Yes
Sociology	Shuva Paul	Yes
	Vivien Hartog	Yes

*Those senators who are not yet confirmed must pick up a confirmation form at the GSO office.*