

INSIGHT

February 26, 1990

Newsletter of the Stony Brook Chapter
United University Professions
104 Old Chem.
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York
11794-3475

(516) 632-6570



Educators Income Tax Guide Available

Copies of the 1990 edition of the Educators Income Tax Guide, which specializes in educational deductions, have been distributed to all departments via department reps (or chairs in cases where there is not yet an elected department rep).

These publications have been provided by our affiliate NYSUT, and due to its input the publisher has added an expanded section on New York State income taxes.

Parking Negotiations Update

The following memo from UUP President, Tim Reilly, was received in the chapter office earlier this month.

"SUNY continues its absurd attempt to balance its budget on the backs of our members. We have received communication from SUNY indicating their intention to impose unilaterally a parking fee in the amount of \$132.00 per year. The scheduled date for this action is June 1, 1990. Otherwise, however, details of how SUNY imagines it will collect the fee are unclear. Just as imposing parking fees on students is a back door attempt to get the tuition hike which was vetoed by the Governor last year, these new and unwarranted fees for UUP members are tantamount to a takeback in salaries. UUP's resolve to resist this action is quite clear.

You will recall that in an act of inconsistency, the State has declared its intention to file an Improper Practice Charge against UUP for failure to negotiate a parking fee. We are prepared to argue our position against this charge, just as we are ready to oppose any unilateral action.

We will keep you informed as new scenes are played in this drama."

Legislative Concerns by David Burner, Legislation Committee Chair

In an election year the State's budget proposal is usually sanguine, and this year is no exception. SUNY appears to be luxuriating in "creative financing": increased funding from special revenue (refinancing the dormitory bond), changing the SUNY fiscal year to July-June, and so on.

Governor Cuomo's budget for SUNY includes an increase of over \$50 million compared with last year's cut of nearly \$50 million.

Taxpayers - according to a recent statewide poll reported in Newsday on February 9th - favor deferring the income tax cut, despite the wishes of Republican legislators, and reducing the huge deficit the State faces of \$1 billion now and possibly \$2 billion for 1990-91.

Good things in the Governor's budget proposal for SUNY:

- a) an increase of 171 lines, most assigned to the Graduate Research Initiative;
- b) funding of \$3 million to establish a competitive grants program for innovation and excellence in undergraduate teaching;
- c) added support to recruit faculty from under represented-minorities;
- d) funding of \$15 million for academic equipment replacement and improvement of research facilities;
- e) expanded TAP and Liberty Partnership funding.

Certain programs were cut, perhaps because the Governor expects legislators to restore their favorite regional programs. These include a Waste Management Institute and the African-American Institute.

One critical issue is what, if anything, the legislature will do about covering the deficit by cutting the budget. Will consideration of a tuition increase be raised? Certainly not until after the 1990 election. The probability is that the Democrats and Cuomo will win on the income tax deferment, but this is not going to cover the entire deficit.

On Tuesday, March 13th, UUP members will lobby for SUNY funding at the legislative offices in Albany. We will urge that some cuts be restored - such as those affecting hospital programs' operating subsidies - and that the existing proposals be passed intact. If you are interested in lobbying on March 13, please call Jo Weitzner at 2-6570.

Although it is unlikely that SUNY will experience the disastrous cuts of last year, the increased funding this year only tilts us somewhat upright. We need to ensure that the state budget treats higher public education well in the coming year.

Date of Issue - February 26, 1990

Educators Income Tax Guide Available

Copies of the 1990 edition of the Educators Income Tax Guide, which specializes in educational deductions, have been distributed to all departments via department reps (or chairs in cases where there is not yet an elected department rep).

These publications have been provided by our affiliate NYSUT, and due to its input the publisher has added an expanded section on New York State income taxes.

Parking Negotiations Update

The following memo from UUP President, Tim Reilly, was received in the chapter office earlier this month.

"SUNY continues its absurd attempt to balance its budget on the backs of our members. We have received communication from SUNY indicating their intention to impose unilaterally a parking fee in the amount of \$132.00 per year. The scheduled date for this action is June 1, 1990. Otherwise, however, details of how SUNY imagines it will collect the fee are unclear. Just as imposing parking fees on students is a back door attempt to get the tuition hike which was vetoed by the Governor last year, these new and unwarranted fees for UUP members are tantamount to a takeback in salaries. UUP's resolve to resist this action is quite clear.

You will recall that in an act of inconsistency, the State has declared its intention to file an Improper Practice Charge against UUP for failure to negotiate a parking fee. We are prepared to argue our position against this charge, just as we are ready to oppose any unilateral action.

We will keep you informed as new scenes are played in this drama."

Legislative Concerns

by David Burner, Legislation Committee Chair

In an election year the State's budget proposal is usually sanguine, and this year is no exception. SUNY appears to be luxuriating in "creative financing": increased funding from special revenue (refinancing the dormitory bond), changing the SUNY fiscal year to July-June, and so on. Governor Cuomo's budget for SUNY includes an increase of over \$50 million compared with last year's cut of nearly \$50 million.

Taxpayers - according to a recent statewide poll reported in Newsday on February 9th - favor deferring the income tax cut, despite the wishes of Republican legislators, and reducing the

huge deficit the State faces of \$1 billion now and possibly \$2 billion for 1990-91.

Good things in the Governor's budget proposal for SUNY:

- a) an increase of 171 lines, most assigned to the Graduate Research Initiative;
- b) funding of \$3 million to establish a competitive grants program for innovation and excellence in undergraduate teaching;
- c) added support to recruit faculty from underrepresented minorities;
- d) funding of \$15 million for academic equipment replacement and improvement of research facilities;
- e) expanded TAP and Liberty Partnership funding.

Certain programs were cut, perhaps because the Governor expects legislators to restore their favorite regional programs. These include a Waste Management Institute and the African-American Institute.

One critical issue is what, if anything, the legislature will do about covering the deficit by cutting the budget. Will consideration of a tuition increase be raised? Certainly not until after the 1990 election. The probability is that the Democrats and Cuomo will win on the income tax deferment, but this is not going to cover the entire deficit.

On Tuesday, March 13th, UUP members will lobby for SUNY funding at the legislative offices in Albany. We will urge that some cuts be restored - such as those affecting hospital programs' operating subsidies - and that the existing proposals be passed intact. If you are interested in lobbying on March 13, please call Jo Weitzner at 2-6570.

Although it is unlikely that SUNY will experience the disastrous cuts of last year, the increased funding this year only tilts us somewhat upright. We need to ensure that the state budget treats higher public education well in the coming year.

SUNY Stalls Disparity Settlement

Yes, the Disparity Funds from the 1985-88 contract are yet to be distributed. Several million dollars is set aside to redress salary inequities in our bargaining unit. A joint UUP/SUNY committee was established five years ago to determine who among us gets this money.

The committee compiled the data to support their decisions. UUP members, along with our research department in the central office, very diligently documented UUP's position.

The joint committee arrived at an agreement as to what inequities actually exist, and derived a formula for distribution. However, SUNY's side of the committee continues to insist that campus presidents have the final say. SUNY maintains that campus

presidents should be able to add or delete names arrived at by using the formula determined by the joint committee. The UUP members cannot accept these terms; thus we are at an impasse.

If this impasse is not settled by April 1, UUP negotiates with the New York State Office of Employee Relations (OER), and no longer with SUNY, in order to resolve the differences. Since OER generally does not share SUNY's belief in the omnipotence of campus presidents, we must assure that the swift distribution of disparity funds will be made.

In the meanwhile, the money will not be lost. Once the process proceeds, updated data will be used in the determinations.

- From the Canton Chapter Newsletter

UUP Members Arrested in Nuclear Waste Site Protest -- Executive Board Passes Resolution On The Siting of Low Level Nuclear Waste Dumps

Eight UUP members from the Cortland and Alfred chapters have been arrested on disorderly conduct charges during the past two months after successful community efforts to prevent members of the state's Low Level Nuclear Waste Siting Commission from inspecting potential dump sites near their campuses. At this point, public support for the protesters is strong, and the local district attorney has refused to prosecute those arrested.

At its February 1 meeting, the UUP Executive Board resolved to use its resources to educate its members and the public as to the health, safety, and environmental concerns regarding nuclear waste; to work diligently to seek legislation modifying the Low Level Nuclear Waste site selection process; and to establish a "Bump the Dump" fund, from contributions solicited for that purpose, for distribution to appropriate organizations engaged in nonviolent struggle against the placement of nuclear waste dumps anywhere in the state. UUP has also called for the immediate resignation of Angelo Orazio, Chair of the Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission, and his replacement with someone with greater sensitivity to the safety and health and environmental concerns of the citizens of New York State.

The NYSUT board of directors has also called for changes in the way nuclear waste dumps sites in New York State are selected.

It is clear that nuclear waste dumps would not only pose serious health and safety hazards for the thousands of citizens who live near and work at the affected SUNY campuses, but would also adversely affect the recruitment and retention of faculty and students.

Striking Machinists Need Help

Some 8,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) are in the 11th month of their strike against Eastern Airlines. Their most pressing need is money to continue major food pantries in key cities where the union is providing provisions to 2,000 families. Send donations to the AFL-CIO Fairness for Eastern Fund, 815 16th Street NW, Room 703, Washington DC 20006.

Almost a year after Eastern filed for bankruptcy protection, its creditors and stockholders are balking at the "leadership" of union-buster Frank Lorenzo. His company just posted the biggest one-year loss in commercial aviation history (almost \$900 million) and the stock of its parent company, Texas Air, has plummeted from a high of \$24 last August to about \$6 a share.

Ninety six percent of IAM strikers continue to hold the line. Boycott Eastern, Continental and Texas Air; help the strikers with a donation today.