

than smaller departments with smaller payrolls -- so that the individual income gap among these departments continues to grow almost geometrically. We were assured, however, that clear guidelines would be promulgated as soon as the word comes down from Albany.

From the President A. W. (Bill) Godfrey

"General Education Requirements"

The Trustees persist in their general education requirements and expect to have it in place by 2000. They have not requested additional funding for the initiative and admit that statewide it will cost in excess of \$22 million. The solution one of the Trustees said was to "rearrange the faculty," which could mean retrenchments. UUP and the Faculty Senate are working closely to take back faculty rights and duties, and to contain the micro-management of the Trustees. It is significant to note that SUNY Central and the Trustees accuse the Faculty Senate of conspiring with UUP in their vote of No Confidence.

SUNY BUDGET

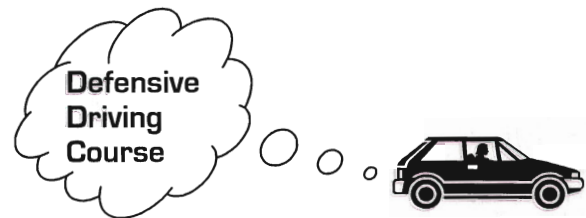
The budget impasse drags on and feasibly could drag through the summer. At present there is no agreement as to how much the surplus is, what tax revenue is available -- and even less on how it should be spent (or saved). The one thing that may move things along is the expiration of the Loft Law in New York City on June 30th to which the Speaker is committed, and may be used as a bargaining chip by the Governor and Senate Majority Leader to get a budget.

Labor/Management Meeting

At a recent Labor-Management meeting with the President, a number of issues were discussed including the way Discretionary Salary Increases (merit money) are administered. We have felt that it was often distributed inequitably, or in ways that it was not intended to be used, such as matching offers. We also believe that large or rich departments do much better

And the beat goes on...

UUP has been lobbying in Albany for SUNY every Tuesday the Legislature has been in session for restoration of funds to SUNY, restoration of full-time faculty lines, and an improvement of the way SUNY allocates funds to campuses. On Monday, May 17th, there was a reception in Albany for legislators and staff who are SUNY alumni, which was very well attended. We will continue this work until the Legislature leaves for the year.



By popular demand, we are once again offering a NYSUT sponsored Defensive Driving Course.

DATE: Monday, June 28, 1999 and
Wednesday, June 30, 1999

TIME: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

COST: \$15

WHO: Open to all UUP members and their immediate family members.

WHERE: Student Activity Center
Monday – Room 308
Wednesday – Room 304

Payment must accompany registration requests.

**Checks should be made payable to:
"NYSUT Benefit Trust"**

To register: Bring, or mail, registration fee to UUP office, 104 Old Chemistry, Z=3475.

Note: Successful completion of this course can result in a 10% reduction on your car insurance. We need at least 30 participants for this course to be offered, and there is a limit of 36 people.



Help! ...for Retirees

To assist UUP members, who are facing the details of retirement, UUP in Albany has just hired a retirement benefits specialist, Anne Marine, who can be reached at 1-800-342-4206. "Retirement Kits" are available at the UUP office, or by request by contacting Ms. Marine.

A parting note...

This will be my last newsletter as UUP President. It has been an interesting and rewarding time for me. Most significant has been the work done by the Executive Board and others without whose cooperation and hard work little would have been achieved to make us a visible and positive presence on campus. We have not always succeeded, but much of our successful work will never be known because it is behind the scenes and unpublicized. The board members are all volunteers and are active because they are convinced it is the right thing to do, and that more can be done together than by individuals competing for notoriety and personal advancement. It is a fine group of effective people who have become a cohesive group over the years.

Special thanks go to retiring board members Chuck Wrigley, Judy Wishnia, and Evert Volkersz who have served the chapter well and will continue to serve as delegates to the assembly and will be available to offer their experienced and wise counsel to the board. I would also like to thank Bonnie Beck, the NYSUT Field Representative, who was of enormous help during my tenure and made things happen that would have been impossible otherwise. John Schmidt, who assumes the presidency of the chapter June 1, will make a superb president. He brings intelligence, dedication and integrity to the position and will serve you well. He will build on what has been started and has my complete support.

In closing, I would urge everyone to consider UUP more seriously. Among academics, there is a certain snobbery about belonging to a union -- especially one affiliated with AFL/CIO. Times are changing, and there is a trend towards downsizing in all sectors of the economy. As workers (including executives) get older and their salaries become higher, employers (including universities) view them as being less productive and look for ways of lowering the bottom line and getting them to leave, often by retirement.

With a strong union it is much more difficult to do this. But a union is as strong as the commitment and participation of its members. Considering the recent moves of the Trustees, and the failure to advocate adequate funding of the university, the

university is at-risk and UUP is the only entity that can actively and independently advocate for the university and academic freedom. I urge you to become more active and outspoken. Write or visit your state legislators. They are very responsive.



UUP Office Summer Hours:

Effective June 1 through August 20

Monday through Thursday

9am to 3:30pm

Closed Fridays

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The Chapter office will be open daily from 9:00 to 3:30, Monday through Thursday, and closed Fridays during the summer until August 20. The Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 9:30, and members are encouraged to attend.