

UUP InSight

Newsletter of the
Stony Brook Chapter of
United University
Professions
June 1995
Issue #8

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

This newsletter may not be the most pleasant that people have received, but we need to speak about the painful possibilities of reorganization, retrenchment, and reduction in staff. Too often, those who lose their jobs or receive notice of termination are devastated. In addition, those who keep their jobs frequently feel both uncertainty and guilt and are awkward in their day-to-day dealings with those who have lost their jobs.

This is the time when people most need support. We also need to point out that UUP is unconditionally supportive of employment security. As a result, we are asking -- even pleading -- with our members in supervisory positions to consider members who may have been retrenched for openings in your departments. Unfortunately, too frequently we fail to look at our retrenched colleagues to fill job openings. This is neither collegial nor compassionate.

The UUP Office has many materials available that are helpful in the difficult situations we will probably be facing. We ask that you feel free to contact us.

The mood of the state and the nation is not likely to be friendly to academics or unions. The statements quoted by the Governor, Mayor and people in Washington have given the general public the impression that we at the University work short hours and have long summer vacations. The Governor's request that we teach one more hour a week to solve the budget shortfall shows how ignorant legislators are about the work we do.

On another issue, be aware that to save academic positions, professionals may be terminated and it seems possible that positions may be eliminated. UUP has taken a very strong ideological stand against this. Academics should also be aware that if the professionals are not around to perform essential functions, there will be a definite and dramatic increase in workload.

All University employees are being looked at very carefully by government and Tax-Pac groups. Unfortunately, it takes very few irresponsible members to give us a bad reputation. As we have said before, we should remain accountable and not assume that our value is in what we know rather than in what we do.

It is unfortunate that someone saw fit to publish the salaries of teachers in the Three Village School District. It is not helpful to denigrate the work of our colleagues in the elementary and secondary schools. If you feel that it is unjust that they earn more than many tenured professors, consider the following:

-They have a strong union with active membership that has promoted their cause and salary structure.

-They teach at least five hours a day for 180 days a year. They also have preparation and other activities that usually consume in total more than forty hours a week.

In this difficult time, it is unproductive to criticize those who have been helpful to us in the Save Our SUNY campaign.

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

UUP has established a Committee on Employment to serve those who may have concerns about restructuring or reorganization. Please feel free to contact them about your concerns.

Bill Godfrey	2-6546, 473-6601
John Schmidt	2-7036
Bill Wiesner	2-7791
Beverly Rivera	2-6889
Judy Wishnia	2-7688, 751-3810
Ed O'Connell	2-9674
Jose Feliciano	2-8069
Ed Quinn	2-6826
Bonnie Beck	2-6570
	or 273-8822

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The budget is in place and although the numbers are not good they are far better than they would have been had not UUP taken an energetic and proactive role. Thanks goes to all of our members who

worked so hard to inform the governor and the legislature. Among the tentative casualties are graduate programs with a reduction of \$5 million statewide in the Graduate Research Initiative (GRI) and an increase of \$1750 in graduate tuition.

Insight is published during the academic year by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP office, 104 Old Chem, 3475. The opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the author or the Stony Brook Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

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Hours: 8:30 - 3:00

The Stony Brook Chapter Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 1:00. All Executive Board Meetings are open to the membership. Please feel free to attend.

UUP is affiliated with NYSUT and AFT (local 2190)