

UUP InSight

Newsletter of the
Stony Brook Chapter of
United University
Professions
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Issue #4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

The lobbying bus trip to Albany was a good first step. The Stony Brook team visited at least 20 legislators to tell them the impact of the cuts on the university and the education mission of the university.

It will be increasingly important that you contact the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly and your own state senator and assembly member. You may choose to make some of the following points.

- 1 The cut in state funding for SUNY (31.5%) is unprecedented in the history of American Higher Education and will cripple the mission of the university. The cut is disproportionate to other cuts made to other agencies.
- 2 The cut will result in a drastic reduction in staff, decrease in access, larger classes, which will make it very difficult for students to graduate in 4 years.
- 3 A large increase in tuition, reduction in TAP - elimination of EOP (AIM) programs will reduce access to public education for those who need it most and will probably lead to an increase in unemployment, underemployment and unproductive public expense. A

national study of public education has shown that even dramatic tuition increases can lead to equally dramatic reductions in enrollment.

- 4 The elimination of graduate TAP will have a disastrous impact on our graduate programs.
- 5 A reduction in the number of students and staff will have a negative effect on the local community including depressing the value of real estate and reducing the volume of business in the local community.

The following are addresses and phone numbers of the leadership:

Governor Pataki
The Capitol - Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224
1-518-474-8390

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno
Room 409 LOB
NYS Senate, Albany, NY 12247
phone number: 1-518-455-3191

Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver
Room 923 LOB
NYS Assembly, Albany, NY 12248
phone number: 1-518-455-3851

If you would like the address and phone numbers of your state senator or representative we have them at the UUP office. The addresses are also available in SBNEWS on all-in-one. It is absolutely essential that you get involved. It would be even better if you can make an appointment to visit your legislators at their local office.

They are usually at their Long Island offices on Thursdays and Fridays.

On our way back from lobbying in Albany, we ran into the Stony Brook retrenchment team. The possibilities are real. Contact your elected officials.

There is a widely circulating rumor that after the legislature having passed the pension bill unanimously failed to override the Governor's veto. The failure to override the vote was absolutely on party lines - the Republican leadership warned their members not to break ranks with the caveat "Remember what happened to Marino." It is real hardball and fighting with brass knuckles - as they used to say many years ago.

The chapter office has on file sample copies of letters that can be used to mail to your legislators. Call Jo at 2-6570 or JWEITZNER on all-in-one if you would like a copy.

Remember to check the UUP SBNEWS bulletin board for weekly updates of the UUP Budget Crisis Bulletin.
FOR CURRENT BUDGET INFO...

1-800-UUP-INFO

1-800-887-4636

(The above phone number is a recorded message that is changed as events occur.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The UUP's endless campaign against merit pay seems primarily to indicate that those of little merit have the boundless spare time necessary for union activism. In my own experience, merit pay is closely correlated with major publications, invited addresses, and other indications of scholarly prominence; without it, Stony Brook would

lose its best researchers, dooming it to become a third-rate institution with a third-rate faculty. Before you engage in further pontifications in this regard, shouldn't you find out how the busy majority really feels about this issue --- and come clean regarding your own research credentials.

Claude LeBrun
Mathematics

Editor's note-

The writer clearly did not read closely the Insight commentary. Professor LeBrun's comments speak for themselves with all their inaccuracy. Nowhere does he mention teaching. Professor LeBrun should also be aware that approximately one third of our members are professionals.

TAX GUIDES AVAILABLE

The UUP office has available a limited supply of the 1995 Educator's Tax Guide. If you would like a copy, please call the UUP office at 2-6570 or JWEITZNER on all-in-one.

UUP POLICY ON RETRENCHMENT PLANNING

UUP members subscribe to the following Delegate Assembly policy:

"I will not participate in any plan to name programs or my colleagues for retrenchment and will resign from [any] committee which attempts to do this."

Further, the policy provides that the name of all who refuse to subscribe to this commitment to their colleagues will be published.

RALLY SCHEDULED

A SUNY rally is scheduled for Friday, March 3, 1995 at 12:00 at the State Office Building in Hauppauge. Buses will leave from the front of the Administration Building at 11:30 and return by 1:00. Please call the UUP office at 2-6570 to reserve a seat.

The job you fight to save may be your own!