

UUP InSight

Newsletter of the
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at each SUNY campus because it is not necessary that each campus offer a comprehensive menu.

Eliminate weak course offerings. SUNY offers some classes that could not withstand public scrutiny. Our Board should appoint a committee of eminent scholars to review the course offerings of all 64 campuses and recommend that insubstantial courses be eliminated.

Rank-order SUNY's 64 campuses as part of a review of possible campus closings and mergers.

Eliminate SUNY graduate programs in fields that are amply covered by private institutions within the state or region.

Our obligation to offer subsidized graduate programs, however, is much less clear.

As a start, we should rethink whether SUNY should be allocating limited tax dollars to graduate programs that (1) are widely available in private colleges and universities, and (2) lead to high-dollar occupations (which means that loans are readily available to students who want to attend private graduate programs in these fields).

We should quantify how much is being spent by SUNY for law, teaching, medicine, pharmacy, and dental schools.

Targeting these programs would be controversial, but these resources might be better spent strengthening undergraduate

FROM THE PRESIDENT A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

Welcome back with hopes that your summer was enjoyable and relatively free of stress. It has been a difficult summer for UUP, but thus far retrenchments and non-renewals have been kept to the minimum. Next year is likely to be more difficult as support for SUNY in Albany wavers considerably.

It is clear that the SUNY Board of Trustees plans to take a more active role in the management of the University. A long memorandum to the Board of Trustees from Candace de Russey, a new Board member, contains the following recommendations which should catch your attention:

"Rewrite SUNY's mission to focus on academic excellence rather than on the unbridled interpretation of "access."

By relaxing entrance requirements and creating vast remedial education courses, SUNY has contributed to the decline of public education.

Refocus which programs are offered

programs and meeting our cost-cutting obligations.

Eliminate any English-as-a-Second-Language courses offered by SUNY.

Make it known in the current UUP contract negotiations that we Trustees favor greater faculty productivity.

SUNY professors in general can reasonably be expected to carry a greater teaching load. At present, fully tenured professors teach only a few hours a week, although they are paid about two or three times the median income of the local community.

Presently, the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) and SUNY Central are engaged in negotiations with UUP, the union representing professors. Although GOER, not SUNY, is in charge of these negotiations, we nonetheless should let GOER know our priorities. To this end, we need to be briefed on the status of negotiations and take a more active role.

In addition to tracking more effectively time spent by professors in undergraduate classrooms and the use of graduate assistants for teaching and grading, we should also review current sabbatical practices.

Reverse SUNY policies that place restrictions on privatization.

Look very seriously at privatization options throughout the system. Possible targets include security arrangements, mental-health counseling, day care, quick-printing, health clinics, remedial programs, and career counseling.

SUNY, in addition to educating students, provides a wide array of social services ranging from counseling to day care to family planning. We need to consider whether SUNY is simply trying to do too much.

SUNY's affirmative action efforts lie in three areas: employment, contracts, and admissions. Clearly it is time for a thorough review.

We SUNY leaders should thus participate in the national re-evaluation of divisive and otherwise morally questionable preferential policies."

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No formal contract negotiations have recently taken place with the issues of privatization and workload on the table as "non-negotiable."

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As you can understand, we are concerned about the future of higher public education and particularly about the mission of Stony Brook. The general apathy and sense of security of much of the faculty may allow the downgrading of a university "poised for greatness." As a result, it is quite necessary for us to be in touch with the political leaders who determine our funding and ultimately our educational mission.

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LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SCHEDULED

The Legislative Breakfast will take place on Tuesday, September 19th, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. Invitations are in the mail. Please call for the location.