

## From the President

**A. W. (Bill) Godfrey**

The budget includes \$5.3 million for 100 new academic lines. There may still be some tinkering with the details which may increase that number. SUNY wanted to include money for a few "eminent scholar" lines which the legislature did not buy. This is a beginning to replace the 2,000 full-time academic lines lost to SUNY since July 1991 which have been replaced by an increase of almost 3,000 part-time lines.

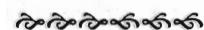
The legislature did not approve a tuition reduction but provided \$65 in book money for each SUNY and CUNY student.

### **LOCATION PAY**

**The location pay for full-time members will be in the May 27th check. It was delayed because SUNY neglected to submit the pay bill.**

Affirmative Action is under attack in many states including New York. Unfortunately, the concept is greatly misunderstood. It means that there be a real effort to hire qualified members of underrepresented groups. It is not preferential treatment, but merely a vehicle for evening the playing field.

Many years ago there was not a significant pool of qualified "minority" or even female applicants for university positions. The same claim can no longer be made. The reality is that there is fear and hesitation that candidates will not fit into the academic culture which has been in place for generations and changed very little. Change can only begin at the departmental level. Despite pious assertions that we have fulfilled our legal obligations, Stony Brook has granted more than 400 waivers of search. To be blunt, it means that 400 positions were filled without any attempt to find qualified minority candidates. It is clear that the Stony Brook students have changed and nearly 50% of the student body is "of color." Yet in 1997, 4.3% of the full-time and part-time faculty was Black or Hispanic which is lower than the 5.7% ten years earlier. Besides, hiring practices have been the subject of a federal audit which was very critical of the university. It is not unlikely that our record could cause us some difficulty in the future.





The RAM (Resource Allocation Method) devised by the Trustees and SUNY Central is being looked at closely by the legislature. This new method of distributing tax levy revenue to SUNY campuses will be very destructive to those campuses which have high-cost/high-quality programs. It is a "least common denominator" method of funding which will result in simplicity and mediocrity. If implemented, Stony Brook stands to lose a great deal of revenue.

One of the continuing concerns of UUP is the impact of technology on instruction. Distance learning can be both a blessing and a curse. Do not discount the possibility of lectures being taped and kept in a library to be used at a future date which could ultimately result in the diminishing of human contact between teachers and students. In addition, be aware of copyright considerations.

Next year (after elections) could be a very difficult year for higher education funding. It could be moderated if Wall Street has another good year. Nonetheless, mandated programs like STAR, Universal Pre-Kindergarten and the tax cut will kick in; federal welfare aid will be reduced and the bonds for prison building will fall due in the next few years. You may complain about the gloom and doom, but it is real and more faculty need to become active with your local legislators.

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### **NYSUT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Congratulations to Howardina Pindell who was just awarded a statewide NYSUT Community Service Award. Previous winners from the campus were Clifford Swartz, Monica Roth, and Mary Ann Bell.

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**This may be the last newsletter you receive before the semester ends. We will, however, continue to publish newsletters during the summer.**

**We hope it is a good and healthy summer for all of our members and you should know that the UUP office on campus will be open or there will be coverage. It is very important to keep us advised should you believe anything unusual may be happening to jeopardize any of our members.**



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**The Chapter office is open daily from 8:30 – 4:00. The Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 11:45 and members are encouraged to attend.**