

From the President

A. W. (Bill) Godfrey

The Executive Board would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year. For your information, the UUP Office will be closed December 24 - January 3, 1999.

The UUP Legislative Committee has met several times and has outlined the legislative goals for the coming year. This year's legislative agenda for UUP includes the following:

- A five-year operating budget for SUNY which will give SUNY administrators an opportunity to set the direction and goals of the university based on sound educational priorities. It will also allow the public (including students and their parents) a long-range view of where the university is headed. Such a plan would not be unlike the long-term capital plan for construction which has a five-year window but is updated annually.
- Additional full-time faculty lines to make up for the more than 1300 lines that have been lost over the last five years.
- A more efficient and rapid means of approving new curricula so that SUNY can respond more expeditiously to the State's higher education needs.

The Governor's budget will not be out until the middle of January and we do not know whether there will be any surprises.

1999 Legislative Bus Trip

The annual bus trip to Albany, Stony Brook Day, will be Tuesday, February 9th. It is our opportunity to tell legislators about Stony Brook and to make our fiscal needs known. Since there is likely to be "deficit fever" again in Albany, higher education is one of the most likely areas that can be trimmed in the budget. As faculty, it is imprudent to stand aloof from the legislative process when it is possible to influence it.

The President, Provost, Vice Presidents and deans as well as students and faculty usually go on this trip with us to make our case to legislators. It is a one-day trip which should not be too much of a sacrifice for anyone. Please save the date and let us know that you can join us.

Next year's budget - the Trustees and SUNY Central have not yet come up with next year's SUNY budget. Each year it seems to be later and later. They report they may ask for an increase of funding, but whether it will be adequate to meet increasing enrollment and eroding infrastructure is open to question.

Members in the News

When you receive your copy of The Voice, please turn to page 7 which has a profile on the wonderful humanitarian work done by Mary Ann Bell.

There is no word as yet from SUNY Central when the next salary increase will be distributed.

A new report and study shows that the cost of college continues to increase as federal grant money decreases which puts higher education out of the reach for many low-income students. Pell grants provide half of what they did twenty years ago. The average award has declined by 23% (adjusting for inflation) while the cost of college has risen by 49% with family incomes up by only 10% for the same period.

Among the more depressing news items is a Harvard University study which shows that cigarette smoking is on the rise among college students with a 28% increase in the last four years.

Dinner Dance

The Dinner Dance will be on Friday, February 19th from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Harbor Hills Country Club. Tickets are \$20.00. This has always been a pleasant evening of good food, good company and good music. UUP will underwrite the other half of the expenses.

The election results showed what an important impact NYSUT and UUP had on the outcome of the senatorial race. The Vote/Cope effort was responsible for this. We are asking that you consider joining Vote/Cope or increasing your payroll deduction. As you know, unions cannot contribute directly to election campaigns but can do so indirectly by means of voluntary Vote/Cope contributions of their member.

PDQWL

The next round of PDQWL is for activities between July 1, 1998 and August 31, 1999. The application deadline is January 29, 1999. The same rules apply as for the previous applications. Applications are available in the Union Office, 104 Old Chem. or online at:

<http://www.albany.net/~nysuup>
(Individual Development Awards Program)

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