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SUFFOLK PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
AARON W. GODFREY

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## From the President

*A. W. (Bill) Godfrey*

### Discretionary Salary Increase

The Discretionary Salary Increases (DSI) are to be sent to Albany by the middle of September and there is an August 31st deadline for submitting campus recommendations. This leaves little time for any process, significant faculty input, or meaningful discussion about criteria for increases. The guidelines from Human Resources state that DSI is to recognize performance during the period from July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998. Human Resources "encourages a fair distribution between faculty and staff." Increases are to be not less than \$500 or greater than \$3000 unless written justification is provided.

UUP has urged that management consider more timely and effective means of distributing DSI. We urged that salary compression and equity be primary factors in distribution of discretionary funds. We also suggested that the pool be distributed on a departmental per capita basis rather than on the global salary total of each department. We urged that professionals and part-time faculty be given equal consideration.

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### Legislative Breakfast

The 7th Annual Legislative Breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 17th, 8:00 to 9:30, at the Long Island High-Tech Incubator across the road. Individual invitations have been mailed.

We have been accused of being too pessimistic about the budget and the future of SUNY, but in general we have been on the mark. Fortunately, with the help of the legislature, we have been able to beat back the assault on the integrity of public higher education by the political trustees who have been successful in manipulating the Chancellor and SUNY Central to do their bidding -- even though it has been harmful to the university. Change New York and its "research" mouthpiece, the Empire Foundation, are well funded and have attacked public higher education as having low standards which do not prepare students to meet the needs of the workplace of the 21st century. They are a small but wealthy group that have great influence to affect how the university is funded.

SUNY Central was opposed to the Hospital Flex Bill which UUP supported and hired a lobbying firm for more than \$1.5 million to lobby the legislature to defeat UUP's bill. The Gannett newspapers reported that the firm had a severe conflict of interest since it represented several HMOs that viewed SUNY as a dangerous competitor. On

another front, SUNY Central has seen fit to hire 31 systems people to control activities on local campuses more closely, reportedly with a price tag of about \$2 million. Finally, SUNY Central and the trustees seem determined to implement the new Resource Allocation Method (RAM) which, as we have outlined in previous issues, will severely reduce the funding of Stony Brook since it discriminates against departments and programs (such as the sciences) that have high per capita costs.



### Legislative Update

On August 11th, NYSUT met to make its endorsements for the November elections. There were no endorsements for governor, attorney-general, and U. S. senator pending the result of the primaries on September 10th. It was clear that there was unity to defeat Senator D'Amato whom they say has few moral principles and jumps on issues that will get him money and votes. He has spearheaded an anti-teacher campaign and has attacked teachers (and professors). His voting record is clear - he has consistently voted with the majority in the Senate - in short, he projects an image at home that does not reflect his actual voting record.

The endorsements of candidates are based on voting records of candidates on several key bills. In the state legislature they include Hospital Flex, the SUNY pay bill, the early retirement incentive, and those bills to increase the number of full-time faculty at SUNY. In general, incumbents are backed although in some cases endorsements were withheld. Senators LaValle, Lack, Trunzo, Johnson and Marcellino were endorsed. For the Assembly, Acampora, Thiele, Englebright, Harenberg, Wertz, Barraga, Boyle, Flanagan Conte, and Sweeney were endorsed. Clearly, all the endorsements were not made on the basis of personality or ideology, but on their support of the issues considered important by NYSUT and UUP. Carl McCall, the Comptroller had been previously endorsed with great enthusiasm.

Our special friends, Steve Englebright and Paul Harenberg, who are both on the faculty, are facing difficult races this year and need your help. They are in the Assembly majority and have great influence in this body. They have both been instrumental in helping fund special initiatives at Stony Brook. It would not help if they were replaced by junior members of the Assembly minority who would be powerless to do anything for us.

Steve and Paul will need help and some of your time. We will ask you to make phone calls to other UUP members on their behalf once the campaign gets into full swing. Please call the Union office (2-6570) to let us know your willingness and availability.

*Insight* is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP office, 10 Old Chemistry, 3475. The opinions expressed in articles in the 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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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.