

From the President A. W. (Bill) Godfrey

SUNY BUDGET...

There is still considerable confusion in Albany about how much revenue there will be and the exact extent of the state surplus, which is holding up meaningful negotiation on the budget.

The Governor has continued to reduce operating funding to SUNY and, as you recall last year, vetoed legislative initiatives to restore 100 faculty lines to the university system. This year the Assembly has restored \$87 million to SUNY/CUNY operating aid and has restored \$16.3 million for initiatives vetoed by the Governor. The Senate resolution has restored the cost of collective bargaining salary increases, which is about \$32 million.

It is very important that you write to your senator, assemblyman and to the Governor asking that they restore funding to assure the continued integrity of the SUNY system. We have been in Albany every Tuesday since the legislature has been in session and legislators advise us that mail they receive does make a difference and that they pay attention to it. Please take the time to write to your legislators. There are sample letters that can be used and are available in the UUP Office. The legislators are inclined to make restorations to SUNY, but unless you take the time to write and make your needs known they can only assume the majority of the faculty is satisfied.

Albany E-mail Addresses & Fax Numbers:

Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno

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Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

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Speaker Sheldon Silver

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Assembly Majority Leader Michael J. Bragman

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Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan, Fax: 518-455-3812

CONTRACT UPDATE

Our new contract is still being negotiated. Updates indicate that the bargaining is going reasonably well and thus far there has been no impasse. CSEA membership turned down the ratification of their contract by almost two to one, which may have some impact on our negotiations. The CSEA president claimed there was misrepresentation about the contract from outside groups and that other state worker unions campaigned to have CSEA workers reject the contract.

A recent Ohio decision has indicated that faculty workload is no longer protected. The Supreme Court ruled that states do not violate the Constitution when they conceal public university professors' rights when they negotiate workload as part of their union contracts. Ohio State officials said that the law was "a legitimate effort to insure that professors spend more time in the classroom."

SUNY Trustee Arnold Gardner, a supporter of SUNY, is leaving after 19 years to become a member of the State Board of Regents. He suggested that the board's meeting behind closed doors and rushing its decisions without adequate input or discussion generated the public mistrust of the trustees.

The UUP had its annual legislative luncheon on March 16th. Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Sullivan both said that funds will be restored to TAP and to SUNY.



**Attention:
Late Tax Return Filers!**

Educator's Tax Guides are still available at the Union Office to help make tax preparation much easier. Drop by and pick up your free copy, while supplies last, at 104 Old Chemistry.

"NO CONFIDENCE" VOTE

The Faculty Senate and UUP Executive Board have passed a "no confidence" vote against the SUNY Trustees to protest the board's "dysfunctional and destructive tenure." It has been demonstrated that the Trustees have not asked for adequate funding for the university and have been prone to micro-management rather than establishing policy. Nor do they seem to have consulted adequately with faculty prior to making decisions.

"Loose Ends"...

As the academic year winds down, there are several issues that need to be resolved with management including the thorny problem of DSI (merit money). Among the problems is the fact that there seems to be no consistent method of awarding these funds and it varies from department to department. Frequently, its distribution is predicated on favoritism, which certainly is not the contractual intent. Our chapter certainly believes that equity and salary compression should be taken into consideration when awarding DSI.

Another nagging issue is the appointment of part-time academic hires whose working status is very different from tenure-track faculty. We are asking that they be given opportunities for advancement, especially when units have openings for regular positions. Part-time faculty should have access to a desk, departmental office machinery, phones, a mailbox and a reasonable quantity of office supplies. We understand that in the near future there will be increased reliance on lecturers, which may possibly result in a two-tier faculty system which we believe is bad for the morale of second-tier faculty and not especially good for their students.



The **Defensive Driving** course was well subscribed and we are contemplating having one during the summer months. We will keep you informed.

Insight is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip=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 9:00 to 3:00. The Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 9:30, and members are encouraged to attend.