

UUP InSight

Newsletter of the
Stony Brook Chapter of
United University
Professions

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FROM THE PRESIDENT A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

The budget has finally passed, 103 days late. The work of UUP with the legislators has resulted in a restoration of \$50 million to the SUNY budget. It is expected that additional savings will be made through such devices as the early retirement incentive. We are hopeful that the legislative intent will show that this will be a "no-layoff budget." The budget also restores \$125 million to tuition assistance funds and an attempt to change the fiscal year to the state's fiscal year. Differential tuition was also stopped. Hospital flexibility is still on hold.

Next year should be an even more difficult year because it is not an election year. It is of critical importance that every member become politically active. There are a number of ways in which you can do this. They include:

1. Being in contact with your state and federal legislators regularly regarding issues that effect SUNY and higher education -- write or visit local offices.

2. Helping to register students to vote on campus and in classes. NYPIRG has asked to make class presentations that will take no more than ten minutes of class time.

3. During election day, volunteering to drive our students to the polls.

4. We may also ask you to make phone calls for our endorsed candidates at local phone banks. The endorsement convention will take place mid-August.

Since this is a presidential election year, it is likely that the vote will be heavier and our chances of influencing the local votes are much greater.

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The Fourth Annual Legislative Breakfast will take place Tuesday, September 17. We will give you more details at a later date, but ask that you save the date.

We will also sponsor a candidates' forum for faculty and students which will probably take place in the late afternoon.

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As you know, the Public Employee Relations Board ruled that the state broke the law when it stopped making payments to the UUP Benefit Trust Fund. This is in response to an improper practice charge filed by UUP on behalf of its members. The judge also ruled that the state must make retroactive payments to the Benefit Trust Fund. The

state has appealed the decision and the problem is still on hold. If you have questions regarding the fund, please call 1-800-UUP-FUND.

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One of the ways many universities are making up their shortfall in revenue is by the imposition of fees. In the Fall, a \$40 technology fee will be introduced at this university. Although this is lower than it is at many universities, it will provide the campus with a substantial sum of money with few strings attached.

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Distance learning is a relatively new concept in university circles. You should be sensitive to the fact that this may be a relatively inexpensive way of reducing staff.

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The New York Times published part of an interview with former Chancellor Bartlett. He cited differences and interference by the trustees in the management of the university. The new acting Chancellor Ryan has extensive experience in the delicate balancing of the interest of students, faculty, administration, trustees, and legislature -- which often do not intersect.

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On August 13 The Statewide UUP/NYSUT endorsement committee met in Albany to make its recommendations for the November elections. For the first time incumbents were not automatically endorsed. Among the notable recommendations were:

1. Nora Bredes and Carolyn McCarthy were endorsed over the incumbents in these Congressional races.

2. No endorsements were made in the second and fourth Congressional districts.

3. Endorsement was withheld in the third Assembly district.

The Executive Board of this chapter will meet later in the month to make its own endorsements which we will pass on in the next newsletter.

Insight is published during the academic year by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP office, 104 Old Chem, 3475. The opinions expressed in articles in this 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 Stony Brook Chapter Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 1:00. All Executive Board Meetings are open to the membership. Please feel free to attend.
 UUP is affiliated with NYSUT and AFT (local 2190)