



April 4, 2010

TO: University Senate

FROM: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. *SLS*
President

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. BUDGET UPDATE

On March 30, the New York State Legislature passed an on time budget for the first time in five years. The budget cuts about \$289 million from SUNY's operating budget, bringing the total reduction in the system's state appropriation to more than \$1.4 billion over the past four years. You may recall that the Governor's proposed budget hit Stony Brook particularly hard-- it proposed a \$12 million cut on the academic side; a total elimination of direct state support to the hospital (\$55million); and a 5% reduction in Medicaid. The budget agreement reached by the legislature, which is expected to be signed by the governor, restored less than half of the direct state support to the hospital, adopted the 5% Medicaid cut and did not restore any of the \$12 million cut to the academic budget. The budget also failed to address a tuition increase of any kind, changes in tuition policy or granting more freedom to lease system land or to enter into public-private partnerships.

On the tuition front however, the Governor has pledged to convene a summit on the issue of granting more flexibility to the campuses to set differing and planned tuition increases. The date of the summit has not yet been set. While the full impact of the budget will not be known until we receive further details from SUNY later this month, the final legislation made significant restorations to the Executive budget proposed back in January. We are grateful to our champions--Senators LaValle and Flanagan and Assemblyman Englebright, who fought hard to restore our funding. However, even with these restorations, we will need to absorb budget cuts of about \$60 million university wide.

As we move forward, we will seek to manage these cuts in a way that has the least impact on our students, our patients, our employees and our community. Additional details will be provided as they are available.

II. **LINKING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO ECONOMIC GROWTH**

As President of Stony Brook University, I recently had an opportunity to join a group of other university leaders and U.S. Senators for a roundtable discussion at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on the role of university-based scientific research in advancing innovation and sparking economic growth. The event was organized by the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, chaired by Senator Mark Begich (D-AK). I was joined by other members of The Science Coalition, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of the nation's leading public and private research universities that is dedicated to maintaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, drive innovation, and secure America's global competitiveness. Others taking part in the discussion included Presidents and Chancellors from Northeastern University, West Virginia University, the University of Vermont, Wayne State University, Emory University, the University of Maryland, and North Carolina State University.

III. **MILNOR RECEIVES ABEL PRIZE**

John Milnor, Professor of Mathematics and Co-director of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences, has been awarded the \$1 million Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters "for pioneering discoveries in topology, geometry and algebra." The announcement was made in Oslo on March 23 by Oyvind Osterud, President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Dr. Milnor will receive the Abel Prize from His Majesty King Harald at an award ceremony in Oslo on May 24. The Abel Prize "recognizes contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences."

IV. **PROVOST SEARCH**

On Friday, April 1, the Search Committee began its initial review of applications for the position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. The committee expects to begin the interview process by mid-April and will continue with a review of applications and interviews until the position is filled. To nominate a candidate or for additional information about the search process, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/provostsearch/>.

V. **MINI-GRANT AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The 2011 winners of the Presidential Mini-grants for Departmental Diversity Initiatives were recently selected by a campus committee, which was charged to identify qualified projects designed to promote diversity through the development of new or creative academic initiatives. More than 25 projects were submitted this year for consideration. Individuals submitting the winning entries included:

- **Monica F. Bugallo**, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Girl Power in Science and Engineering

- **Joanne Davila**, Psychology
Creating an LGBTQ-Friendly Educational Experience for Students: Development of an Online Awareness Training Program
- **Dawn Harris**, Africana Studies,
Open Yuh Mout' an' (S)tory Jump Out: Narratives & Perceptions of Caribbean Immigrants and their Descendants in the Context of Stony Brook University and New York
- **Stephanie Jarrett**, EOP/AIM
Passing Along Dare to Care
- **Roy Lacey**, Chemistry & Cheryl Hamilton (EOP/AIM)
Chemistry: A Bridge to Medicine
- **Sheri R. Levy**, Psychology in collaboration with the Career Center and Academic Advising
Academic and Social Experiences of SBU students across their First Year of College
- **Elza Mylona**, Preventive and Internal Medicine
Teaching and Assessing Cultural Competency Using Objective Structured Teaching Exercises: Training the Trainer
- **Nicholas Rzhovsky & Stephen Marsh**, Department of Theater Arts; Department of European LLC
Paul Robeson: A celebration in Tragedy
- **Howard Schneider**, School of Journalism
Communication Interprofessional Teamwork Initiative (CITI): New Health Professional Cultural Competency Interdisciplinary Curriculum Model

Additional details about the winning projects and initiatives will be posted on the SBU Website. Selections were made based on the potential of the project to enhance campus diversity and/or foster greater understanding of diversity issues within the learning environment.

VI. UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Stony Brook University Medical Center has been ranked 10th in the greater New York metropolitan market in U.S. News & World Report's first-ever Best Hospitals metro area rankings, which is available online at www.usnews.com/hospitals. The new rankings recognize 622 hospitals in or near major cities with a record of high performance in key medical specialties, including 132 of the 152 hospitals already identified as the best in the nation. There are nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide.

VII. ATHLETICS UPDATE

Men's Lacrosse: Currently ranked #15 in the country, Coach Rick Sowell has the men's lacrosse team in a tie for first place in the America East Conference following a 16-5 win over UMBC on Friday night. The game was televised nationally on CBS College Sports. The team's next game will be on Saturday against the other team tied for first--University of Hartford. Senior Kevin

Crowley (New Westminster, British Columbia) remains in consideration for the Tewaaraton Award given to the best collegiate player in the nation. Senior Adam Rand (Niantic, CT) is currently third all-time in Division I history for face-offs won and is considered by many as the best face-off man in the nation.

Baseball: Currently ranked #23 in the College Baseball Daily Mid-Major 25, Coach Matt Senk has the Stony Brook Baseball team off to one of its best starts in history. Behind phenomenal pitching efforts, the program earned its first no-hitter in school history (38 years) on March 18 against NJIT behind freshman pitcher Frankie Vanderka (Levittown, NY). Nine days later, the team earned the program's second no-hitter against Army behind the combined pitching efforts of junior Nick Tropeano (West Islip, NY) and freshman Brandon McNitt (Chino Hills, CA). America East Conference play begins next weekend against the University of Maine as the Seawolves look to defend their conference title and return to the NCAA Tournament.