



Unifier

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

◆ FARMINGDALE CHAPTER ◆

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Cuts That Won't Heal

Once again UUPers from Farmingdale answered the call to rally against another proposed budget cut. On a cold Friday, February 5th, attendees at the UUP Winter Delegate Assembly in Albany took time from their committee work to demonstrate at the capital. This time Governor Paterson is seeking \$118 million in cuts to SUNY in his proposed 2010-2011 budget. This cut is on top of the \$410 million in cuts that SUNY has already suffered over the last two years.



In this photo: Margaret Porciello, Solomon Ayo, Yolanda Pauze, Darleyne Meyers, Staci Gardner and Lou Scala

Make your voice
heard—visit
<http://savesuny.org>
to sign the petition
against these cuts

As UUP President Phil Smith said at the rally, "We are not ignoring the fact that New York is facing a fiscal crisis, but the state can't afford to sacrifice its future," Smith said. "SUNY is an investment that will pay off by producing a workforce with the talent it takes to bring jobs to the state and rejuvenate its economy." ♦

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IMPORTANT

General Membership Meetings

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE

- February 18th
- March 18th
- April 29th

The meetings will be held on Thursday in
Gleeson Hall at 11:00 a.m.

Flight Simulator Unveiling



On December 10th, Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. and Assemblyman Robert K. Sweeney joined Farmingdale President W. Hubert Keen, Barbara Maertz and Yolanda Pauzē for the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new Frasca Model 142 flight simulator at the Flight Center.

UUPF was alerted to the need for an aviation flight simulator by Steve Campbell who was then Chief Pilot in the Aviation Department.

UUPF brought this need to the attention of Assemblyman Sweeney and Senator Fuschillo at a UUPF Legislative Event. UUPF explained how the Frasca 142 uses

state of the art technology which allows students to develop pilot competency on the ground before flying planes. The two legislators arranged for grant funding for this project.

In 2009, despite a series of bureaucratic hurdles and with the help of Assemblyman Sweeney, UUPF was able to pursue the purchase of the simulator and finally bring the Frasca 142 to Farmingdale State College.

As Mike Hughes, current Chief Pilot, stated: "The FRASCA Model 142 Simulator is a state of the art, FAA approved, Flight Training Device and is designed to replicate the equipment in our

Piper aircraft. This piece of equipment will allow our students to realize an aircraft hourly cost savings of 20% in both Private and Commercial pilot Training, and 40% in the instrument rating training. Students will be able to learn new procedures and enhance muscle memory right here from the safety and comfort of the aviation center. All of these flight training parameters allow our students at Farmingdale State College the ability to train more efficiently saving both time and money during their Flight Training at the College. "◇

President's Message

LOCAL

It's been a heck of a winter, and the weather's been something too!

Last fall we left off with some good news and some bad news. The good news was that the campus' portion of SUNY's mid-year cuts was absorbed without a reduction in the number of full-time personnel – kudos to management for that.

The bad news was the utter mess that the discretionary salary increases of 2008 caused for the awards in 2009. As of last week, UUPF efforts at resolving the issues have not been met with a favorable response.

It's been a cold winter in many ways. I, for one, look forward to spring and to progress on these and many other issues. But right now, I want to focus on the much bigger picture...

STATEWIDE

Last fall UUP spent most of its energy dealing with mid-year budget cuts to SUNY that approached a half-billion dollars, and fighting back initiatives from some rogue college presidents attempting to "secede from the union".

You may recall UB2020, and its evolution to A/S2020 – assembly and senate bills that highlighted "flagship" SUNY campuses for special privileges while guaranteeing nothing in return. Thankfully, that effort died in the Senate.

This winter Governor Paterson saw UB's 2020, and raised it one;

PHEEIA – what Phil Smith calls A-S/2020 on steroids! [See the Public Higher Education Empowerment & Innovation Act on page 5.]

You can read all about the governor's plan and UUP's response in this newsletter and at uupinfo.org.

UUPF has been hard at work on this as well. A van-full of us drove to Albany in January to join with members from two dozen other chapters to advocate for SUNY funding restorations. We met with individual legislators to point out specific problems and offered alternatives that they may not have considered.

THE ALTERNATIVES

Many are asking, what's the argument against the governor's plan? What's the alternative?

Again I'm asking you to do what you do best – educate the public, our students, your neighbors, and every public official within earshot. Here is the reality behind the PHEEIA:

TUITION

CLAIM: This plan will allow campuses to keep the tuition they generate.

TRUTH: They already do!

However, with PHEEIA the State *drops* its funding by an amount equal to any tuition increase. The gain is "0".

INSTEAD: The proposal should guarantee a minimum amount of



support from the state for every student enrolled. If we are to remain a "public" institution with a mission that includes accessibility, state funding should never be less than 51% of what it actually costs to educate a student.

PROPERTY

CLAIM: This plan will give campuses the freedom to develop public/private partnerships that meet their mission and benefit everyone.

TRUTH: Campuses already have the ability to do this. This new plan simply removes from the process the only entity empowered to say "No" to SUNY. [I know what you're thinking, but can you imagine how many more stupid ideas would get through without that oversight?]

INSTEAD: There should be language in the plan that ensures greater protections for everyone, including scrutiny *and assessment* of each project by the campus at-large, so we can prevent giant rat balloons at our entrances, and more empty



United University Professions College Scholarship Fund

United University Professions (UUP), the nation's largest higher education union, is inviting SUNY undergraduates to apply for \$2,000 annual scholarships.

The UUP Scholarship Trust fund awards are given annually to up to four out-standing SUNY undergraduates who display dedication to the goals and ideals of the labor union movement. At the time of application, applicants must have completed at least sixteen (16) credits at any branch of SUNY with a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.75.

Applicants must possess the qualities and values represented by the United University Professions (UUP) College Scholarship: a dedication to the goals of the trade/labor-union movements; integrity; a tireless quest for excellence in both academic and personal endeavors; and service to the community. The application dead line is March 1, 2010.

Scholarships applications can be found at the UUPF office located in Ward Hall or at campus financial aid offices. Applications may also be obtained by calling



UUP's administrative office in Albany toll-free at (800) 342-4206, or by visiting UUP's Web site at www.uupinfo.org/scholarships/sc

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buildings that none of us are allowed to use.

DIFFERENTIAL anything

CLAIM: Campuses need the flexibility to set their tuition (*tomorrow it could be something else*) in order to properly budget around a predictable income.

TRUTH: If every campus and every program can set its own tuition, then *NOTHING* is predictable. Plus, students will flood the cheaper schools and the cheaper programs – those students who can afford to stay in school – and the entire plan backfires. This clause, more so

than all the others, flies in the face of the mission of the State University – *ACCESS* to higher education.

INSTEAD: This plan should engrave the current tuition rate as a baseline and establish a reasonable rate for annual increases in tuition AND in STATE FUNDING. This win-win-win gives management the predictability it wants, maintains the 51% minimum ratio for public status, and secures access.

These days it's easy to point the finger at labor and call us all obstructionists. It's much harder to

accept the truth.

It's easy to say, "UUP is not doing enough to stop this," without recognizing that the Governor and management control everything –including the sources of communication. As I write, there are mechanisms being put in place to prevent us from collectively approaching legislators.

The Chancellor can attend all the campus and town hall meetings she wants, but does she really speak for SUNY?

We ARE SUNY. Our voices *will* be heard.

Yolanda Pauze

Proposed Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act



GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL

The legislation submitted by the Governor with his budget calls for the enactment of a Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.

The Act provides SUNY with full authority to raise tuition without legislative approval, and impose differential tuition which is currently prohibited under current law.

It eliminates the current requirement for State appropriation of tuition and other SUNY revenues.

It also permits the University to lease campus properties, enter into contracts and variations of public/private partnerships with limited oversight.

UUP POSITION

- **UUP opposes the Governor's proposal to grant SUNY the authority to raise tuition without legislative approval.**
- **UUP also opposes the Governor's proposal to grant SUNY the authority to impose differential tuition.**
- **UUP opposes the elimination of State appropriations for SUNY's expenditure of tuition, student fees and other campus revenues.**
- **UUP has serious reservations concerning proposals to provide SUNY the authority to enter into contracts, leases, public/private partnerships and joint ventures – in the absence of sufficient oversight.**
- **UUP opposes the elimination of State appropriations for SUNY's expenditure of tuition, student fees and other campus revenues.**
- **UUP has serious reservations concerning proposals to provide SUNY the authority to enter into contracts, leases, public/private partnerships and joint ventures – in the absence of sufficient oversight.**

NOTE: This is an excerpt from the full talking points document. Go to the UUPF home page (<http://farmingdale.edu/uupf>) for a link to this document, or <http://www.farmingdale.edu/~uup/flexibilitytalkingpoints.pdf> for the entire document.

Proposed 2010-2011 Executive Budget Proposal State Funding Cuts to SUNY



UUP'S POSITION ON CUTS

The Governor's Executive Budget recommends an unspecified \$118 million reduction in State spending for SUNY's state-operated campuses and University-wide programs.

If this cut is enacted, SUNY will have lost \$528 million in State funding – in just two years. The enormity of this reduction, within a short time frame, precludes the University from having any reasonable opportunity to make the adjustments necessary to protect students.

UUP strongly opposes the Governor's recommendation and urges the legislature to restore the \$118 million.

TALKING POINTS

- SUNY has already lost a higher percentage of its State-funding over the past two years – than any other State agency or functional program area.
- The \$118 cut currently proposed by the Governor for SUNY is 24% of the total State agency cutback reflected in his 2010 – 2011 Executive Budget.
- Thus, from 2008-2009, through this Executive Budget, the Governor has targeted SUNY for a total of \$528 million of the \$2 billion of the State agency cuts – over 25%.
- UUP does not dispute the severity of the State's current fiscal situation.
- We can not accept, however, that SUNY has been the target of the harshest cutback in State spending.
- We can not accept that almost half of SUNY's cutback has been unilaterally imposed through the Governor's mid-year reductions – without any legislative involvement.

IMPACT OF THE CUTS

- The \$528 million reduction in State spending places an intolerable burden on the University and its students.
- The consequences of these reductions can no longer be ignored.

SUMMARY

For all of the forgoing reasons, the Governor's proposals to eliminate \$118 million more from the SUNY operating budget must be rejected .

NOTE: This is an excerpt from the full talking points document. Go to the UUPF home page (<http://farmingdale.edu/uupf>) for a link to this document, or <http://www.farmingdale.edu/~uup/fundingcutstalkingpoints.pdf> for the entire document.

Is it time for a financial tune-up?

Have you ever asked yourself these questions?

- Should I refinance my mortgage?
- Am I saving enough for my children's education?
- What is the best way to reduce my debt?
- Is my 403(b) retirement account invested properly?

If yes, you could benefit by enrolling in the Financial Counseling Program recently endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation.

For an annual fee, you'll get unbiased, objective advice from financial professionals who do not sell any financial products. The Financial Counseling Program is provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc., an investment advisory company.

Its certified financial planners and registered investment advisors provide fee-based professional financial counseling; they receive no commissions from mutual funds, brokerage firms, insurance companies or any other third party.

The Full-Service Financial Counseling Program includes several features. You can consult with a planner or advisor toll-free for up to six hours per year. If a planner or advisor is not available when you call, you can schedule a phone consultation at a time convenient for you.

You can request no-cost written summaries and reports on a variety of financial issues. You can receive assistance in choosing a 403(b) retirement savings program provider available

through your employer, as well as assistance on reviewing your 403(b) investment selections.

You'll gain access to Stacey Braun's password-protected Web site, which is chock-full of tips, narratives, market data, quotes, charts, news, calculators, an interactive financial planner, useful Web site links and more. There's even an e-mail helpdesk where you can get answers to basic financial questions within 24 hours.

If Stacey Braun holds an educational workshop in your area, the admission fee will be waived if you wish to attend. Also, you can request an in-person consultation with a Stacey Braun planner at a mutually agreed-upon location. This service is limited to 90 minutes and carries an additional fee.

If you only desire advice regarding 403(b) retirement savings programs, the **403(b) Limited Financial Counseling Program** is available at a reduced price. This option includes toll-free phone consultations to discuss 403(b) programs only (six-hour limit) and assistance in selecting a 403(b) program provider available through your employer, as well as assistance with investment allocation of 403(b) assets. Web site access, e-mail helpdesk and in-person consultations are not included in the limited plan.

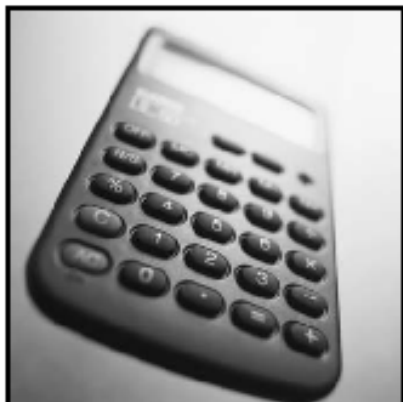
For information on this and other programs, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, call us at 800-626-8101 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or use the **Contact** feature on our Web site.



The Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. Financial Counseling Program is a NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Under an agreement with Stacey Braun, Member Benefits has an expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangement of 10% of annual participation fees received plus \$9 per direct bill participant. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Jan/Feb '10





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SUNY is the \$olution

What?

**Another year
of college!
How are we going
to afford that?**

You're happy she's home for the holidays, but what she just told you about her SUNY college leaves less to be thankful for.

State budget cuts mean she won't graduate on time.

SUNY has been slashed by \$410 million in the last 18 months.

How will this affect you and your family?

You and your children will be forced to pay more—and get less.



If your child attends a SUNY school, ask these questions:

- Will you graduate in four years, or will we have to pay for an extra year of college?
- Are your classes bigger?
- Could you get into the courses you need next semester?
- Can you meet with your professors and advisors, or are they swamped by SUNY's growing enrollment?

**Go to uupinfo.org.
Tell your lawmakers:**

**Speak up for public higher education.
Speak out for my child's future!**



United University Professions

The union that makes SUNY work

Phillip H. Smith, President

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Technology Sector

* indicates committee chairmanship

The UUPF Newsletter welcomes articles and letters submitted by members of the Farmingdale community. Remember, this is your newsletter. Share your thoughts with us. We want to hear from you. Persons who have material they wish to submit should contact Margaret Porciello at porciem@farmingdale.edu. *The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of UUPF.*