



Unifier

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS



FARMINGDALE CHAPTER



March 2013



In this issue:

NYSUT Health & Safety
Conference

PAGE 2

President's Message

PAGE 3

UUP Delegates
Advocate for SUNY

PAGE 4

SUNY's New Direction

PAGE 6

UUP Contract Negotiations Team - Farmingdale Site Visit

by Margaret Porciello , UUPF Newsletter Editor

The UUP Contract Negotiations Team, along with UUP President Phil Smith, visited the Farmingdale campus on Thursday, March 7th to discuss the tentative contract and to inform the campus of the timeline for voting on the proposed contract. UUP members have been working without a contract since the 2007—2011 contract expired on July 1, 2011.



Jamie Dangler, UUP Chief Negotiator for the contract, used a PowerPoint Presentation to highlight the contract's key points. For those unable to attend this meeting, a PDF document containing some detailed information about the contract can be found at <http://uupinfo.org/negotiations/pdf/.TentativeAgreement20112016.pdf>.◇

IMPORTANT CONTRACT DATES:

- Ballots mailed by AAA to members' home addresses - April 19, 2013
- Deadline for receipt of returned ballots – May 15, 2013 at 5 p.m.
- Ballot Count – May 16, 2013
- Results will be posted on the UUP website as soon as possible after they are reported to UUP by AAA.

UUPF Office Ward Hall

First Floor, West Wing

Tel: 631-694-UUPF (8873)

Fax: 631-694-3370

E-mail: UUP@farmingdale.edu

Website:

<http://snfarcv.cc.farmingdale.edu/~uup>

or use the A-Z list on the college website



General Membership Meetings
are held in GLSN 204 at 11 a.m.

IMPORTANT Membership Meetings

- Mar. 21st — General Membership
- Apr. 25th — General Membership

2013 NYSUT Health and Safety Conference

by Douglas S. Cody, CSP, CSHM, Statewide Representative for UUP, NYSUT's Health & Safety Task Force

HEALTH & SAFETY

NYSUT's biannual Health and Safety Conference was held on March 1st and 2nd at the Saratoga Hilton in beautiful Saratoga Springs. This year's conference broke all prior attendance records with more than 200 attendees from all over New York State attending this event. This year's conference featured two dozen workshops packed with very useful and timely information on a broad range of topics. The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Grossman who discussed her research concerning how synthetic chemicals fundamentally change how our bodies work. She explained how these molecular changes lead to a range of health issues including diabetes, cancer and other disorders.

As a long-time member of NYSUT's Health & Safety Task Force, as well as Past Chair, I continue to enjoy these conferences always coming back with new and updated information useful to our members. I had the honor of moderating two wonderful workshops.

The first workshop entitled, "Controlling Critters in the Workplace" was presented by Dr. Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann. Dr. Gangloff-Kaufmann is an Integrated Pest Management (I.P.M.) Specialist and Urban Entomologist who works for NYS's I.P.M. Program. Her discussion was broad-based and wide-ranging including the specific discussion of rodents, bedbugs and cockroaches and the different methods of controlling them. The second workshop entitled, "How to Get Management to Fix Workplace Hazards" was facilitated by Peter Dooley, CIH, CSP who is the President of LaborSafe Health and Safety Consulting. Mr. Dooley lead discussion and led the participants through a tabletop exercise which taught the attendees how to identify specific issues in the workplace and which methods would be best to attempt to get them resolved. Participants at both of these workshops seemed to be quite engaged and came away satisfied that their time

was well spent.

At Friday night's dinner, NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue, who oversees Health and Safety for NYSUT, asked all NYSUT members to lend their voices in the call for passage of the New York State Workplace Violence Protection Act so schools are included and defined as places of work. She asked all "NYSUT members to get active through NYSUT's newly established Member Action Center (MAC); by attending rallies and meetings; and by visiting lawmakers in their home offices and on lobby days."

The next conference won't be held until March of 2015. I will be involved with planning this conference and look to hear from UUPers as to what workshops they would be interested in attending. Any member would benefit greatly from attending the conference and I urge that you consider attending this next one. ♦

EDITORIAL NOTE:

To show your support for the bill to include schools in the New York State Workplace Violence Protection Act, visit the NYSUT site at

https://mac.nysut.org/faxlegislators/widget/issue/150#issuesheadline_mobile

and easily send a fax to your local legislators.

President's Message

In like a lion; out like a lamb. So goes the month of March – but it's not just the weather.

SUNY began the millennium with 60% of its operating budget contributed by the State. Today, state support constitutes only 40%. On too many campuses expenses are being paid by student tuition and fees.



To make matters worse, SUNY proposed a new resource allocation model that would use **graduate student** enrollment as a factor in allocations. This would obviously have favored the university centers over all other campus types, including Farmingdale.

Moreover, the Governor's State Budget proposal includes a "maintenance of effort" for SUNY's overall operating budget. When the rising cost of fuel and other expenses are taken into account, this "flat" budget nets a loss for many campuses.

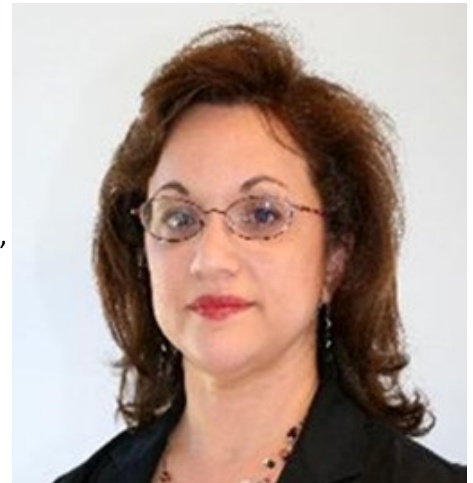
What the governor proposes for SUNY hospitals is even worse, by far the greatest threat to their existence in decades. Not only does the budget include another \$28 million cut, the governor has included language [in Article-7] which allows for private corporations to take over and operate two New York hospitals.

SUNY's public hospitals [Downstate in Brooklyn, Stony Brook, and Upstate Medical in Syracuse] provide care for indigent populations, which private hospitals simply won't provide. They also offer expensive, emergency services such as burn units, poison control and trauma care centers. These are services that private, for-profit hospitals do not offer. Upstate Medical, for example, is the only source for such services in *eight counties*! These hospitals also serve as the clinical classrooms for SUNY's four medical schools, the primary source of medical professionals in the State. Only 40% of the entering classes in New York's private medical schools *come* from New York. For SUNY medical schools, that number is 85%.

It's easy to ignore the impact that these expensive urgent care services and education programs have on the overall cost of running these hospitals. It's much easier to blame us! SUNY's own literature claims, "*Civil service has more generous benefits, the Executive branch negotiates raises and benefits and passes them to hospitals..*"

The fact is that SUNY hospitals are the only state agencies required to pay for their own debt service for capital projects, and for employee fringe benefits. Not to mention that SUNY's own actions [acquiring LICH, among others] have caused the dire financial situation that Downstate is currently facing – a perfect excuse for the "*Hospital Flexibility*" legislation SUNY is now advocating for. If enacted, it would be the first step in the consolidation and privatization of SUNY hospitals.

Public higher-ed has been fighting all of these attacks, all winter long. On



February 11th UUP, NYSUT and CUNY's PSC testified before the Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways & Means Committee. At the top of their list was SUNY's new resource allocation plan. The plan was retracted when pressure came to bear by legislators whose constituents from the two dozen negatively affected campuses followed up with visits to their offices.

This week the State Assembly struck from the state budget the Article-7 language that threatened the hospitals, although the Senate just limited its application to private hospitals only. According to the legislators I spoke with last Monday, both houses expect to restore some of the funding for SUNY hospitals.

In short, *advocacy works!* Many thanks to all who sent faxes and emails, attended rallies and most importantly, delivered the message directly to legislators face to face.

In Solidarity,

Yolanda Pauze

UUP Delegates Advocate for SUNY

by Lou Scala UUPF Department Representative Chair



According to the Free Online Dictionary (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>) an advocate is “a person who upholds or defends a cause.”

At the conclusion of the recent UUP Winter Delegate Assembly about 90-100 delegates from various SUNY campuses visited approximately 65 state assemblypersons and senators urging them to “Keep their Promise to New York’s Future.”

Specifically, our fellow members provided important information (outlined below) in attractive pamphlets and asked the legislators to:

- Enhance SUNY State-operated campuses by adding \$25 million in state appropriations to SUNY.
 - In the last five years, SUNY’s enrollment has grown by more than 20,000 students—a 9 percent increase—at its state operated campuses.
 - State funding has not increased to meet the demands of this growth
 - In the 1990s, 75 percent of SUNY’s operating budget came from state support. Now nearly 75 percent comes from tuition and fees.
- Keep SUNY Downstate Medical Center fully operational and public.
 - Reject the governor’s proposed pilot program that would allow business corporations to own and operate two New York hospitals—one of which is affiliated with a medical school in Brooklyn.
 - This plan is intended to “assist in restructuring health care delivery system by allowing increased capital investment in health care facilities.”
 - Any restructuring of Downstate must include, or lead to privatization.
 - New York must maintain Downstate as a full-service public hospital to protect its important mission of providing Brooklyn’s at-risk populations with quality medical care.
 - Maintaining Downstate also allows the hospital to continue to help finance the medical school and train doctors, nurses and other medical professionals New York needs.
- Fund SUNY’s Teaching Hospitals and Medical Schools and keep them public
 - Bring the state hospital subsidy back to \$128 million by restoring the Executive Budget’s \$28 million cut and adding \$48 million more.
 - Add \$99 million for Downstate Medical Center and \$35 million for Upstate Medical University to maintain them as full-service public institution
 - Reduced state Medicaid spending, in combination with years of state underfunding, had an enormous negative impact on these institutions.
 - SUNY’s public hospitals generate revenues for the state’s medical schools
 - If the state subsidy to these hospitals is reduced. It will significantly threaten health care, medical education and important medical research.

continued from previous page

- Make all SUNY and Research Foundation transactions transparent.
- Safeguard SUNY's Opportunity Programs by improving access and affordability that Educational Opportunity Programs/Centers provide for New Yorkers by increasing EOP and EOC funds above Executive Budget Levels.

I find it to be quite ironic that members of UUP had to remind our elected legislators, and indirectly SUNY's Central Administration, about SUNY's Mission. According to State Education Law, "The mission of the state university system shall be to provide the people of New York, educational services of the highest quality with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in the complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs..."

It is clear that we are in desperate times, we must advocate for SUNY, because it is obvious that forces are arrayed against the noble charge stated above. If we do not advocate for SUNY who will? And, what will SUNY look like in the future if we don't take action? Lastly, if these attempts to scuttle SUNY are successful what will the long-range negative consequences be on our union and our local UUPF?

What can you do?

1. Go to <http://www.uupinfo.org> and send emails on these important issues to your state assemblyperson and state senator.
2. Spread the message about these important issues and SUNY mission, and UUP role in protecting this vital mission to your friends and family—use Twitter and Facebook! J

If you are interested in serving as an "advocate" contact the UUP Office so you can:

Learn about upcoming advocacy events and

Learn effective advocacy techniques that can be used when our elected representatives visit or campus, or when teams of FSC UUPers visit their legislators' offices on Long Island.

Let's be advocates for SUNY, and let everyone know that United University Professions—UUP—is the union that makes SUNY work! ◇



Pictured (left to right) Solomon Ayo, Yolanda Pauzé, Philippe Abraham., Linda Larson, Edison Bond and Debbie Nilsen

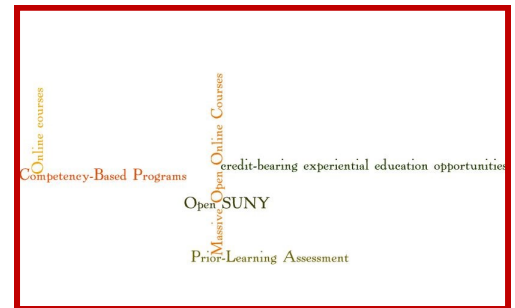
UUPF Professionals Meeting

A meeting of UUPF Professional Members was held on Thursday, March 14th, to address several issues of importance for the professionals. In addition to Farmingdale members, attendees included UUP statewide officers Philippe Abraham—VP for Professionals and Edison Bond—Statewide Development Officer, as well as our NYSUT Labor relations Specialist, Linda Larson

Prior-Learning Assessment, Competency-Based Programs, Massive Open Online Courses

by Margaret Porciello, Co-Chair UUP Technology Issues Committee

Are you ready to do prior-learning assessment of students as well as developing unique programs for each and every student as SUNY Empire State does? Do you have the expertise to develop “credit-bearing experiential education opportunities” for Farmingdale students? Never mind teaching online classes—are you ready to do “massive open online classes”? Is this your vision of your career at Farmingdale?



Apparently this is SUNY’s vision for its campuses. The first sentence of a March 20, 2013 blog by Steve Kolowich states: *“The State University of New York’s Board of Trustees on Tuesday endorsed an ambitious vision for how SUNY might use prior-learning assessment, competency-based programs, and massive open online courses to help students finish their degrees in less time, for less money.”* This is the first sentence in his Wired Campus blog on The Chronicle of Education’s website—http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/suny-signals-major-push-toward-moocs-and-other-new-educational-models/43079?cid=wc&utm_source=wc&utm_medium=en. Mr. Kolowich’s article is based on a SUNY news item - *“SUNY Board Outlines Implementation of Open SUNY”* - released the day before he wrote his blog.

Some of the important points made in this news release include:

- Open SUNY will “bring all online courses offered at each of the system’s 64 campuses onto a shared and comprehensive online environment, making them accessible to all of the system’s 468,000 students and 88,000 faculty.”
- SUNY currently has 86,000 students taking online courses, but Chancellor Zimpher expects to add 100,000 degree-seeking students to this number within the next three years.
- This sharing of the online courses is expected to help students in baccalaureate programs graduate in three years, and students enrolled in masters degree programs to graduate in five years.
- “Advances in online learning will be utilized to offer credit-bearing experiential education opportunities.”
- “SUNY REAL, Empire State College’s prior learning assessment program will be scaled to all SUNY campuses.”
- Faculty from all campuses will be encouraged to openly license their course content.

The SUNY news release can be found at— <http://www.suny.edu/sunynews/News.cfm?filename=2013-03-19-OpenSUNYRelease.htm> ◇

NYSUT members: *Is danger lurking in your home?*

We've just about made it through a particularly cold winter, and spring is finally upon us. With that means warmer weather and the opportunity to spend more time playing with our pets (both indoors and outdoors).

And while we always hear about the dangers of ticks and fleas that can come from the "Great Outdoors," what about those potential hazards lurking inside of our homes as well?

Check out the following list from VPI Pet Insurance about the most common calls received by the Pet Poison Helpline:



Top 5 Toxins & Poisons – Dogs

1. Chocolate
2. Insect bait stations
3. Mouse & rat poison
4. Fertilizers
5. Sugar-free gums & candies

Top 5 Toxins & Poisons – Cats

1. Lilies
2. Topical flea & tick medicine for dogs
3. Household cleaners
4. Mouse & rat poison
5. Paints & varnishes

So have fun with your four-legged friends this spring, but be mindful of where your pet is roaming both inside and outside of your home.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested anything harmful, seek immediate veterinary advice. **The Pet Poison Helpline is also available for a fee 24/7 at 800-213-6680.**

Remember NYSUT members receive a 5% discount on VPI's base medical plan and up to a 15% discount if multiple pets are enrolled.

For more information, please visit memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Discounts & Travel – Members" and then "VPI Pet Insurance" or call toll-free 866-838-3461.

Insurance from A to Z...

While you're considering whether pet insurance is right for your pet, don't forget about the humans in your life as well. If you're looking to protect yourself or your family, make sure to check out the variety of insurance programs endorsed by Member Benefits.

The following programs are currently available: **Term Life & Level Term Life; WrapPlan® II Universal Life; Personal Property/Liability (auto, home, renters, boat, umbrella, etc.); Disability; Vision Plan; and Dental Plan.** Many of these programs are also available to cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents.

Learn more about our endorsed programs by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar/Apr. '13

MEMBER
BENEFITS
nysut
Working to Benefit You



FARMINGDALE CHAPTER

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Yolanda Pauze

President

Robert Reganse

VP Academics

Solomon Ayo

VP Professionals

Bob Simins

Treasurer

Debbie Nilsen

Secretary

Dolores Ciaccio

Affirmative Action

Susan Conforti

Health & Safety

Robert Elgart

Affirmative Action

Henry Ellis

Part-time Concerns

Mike Oil

EOC Concerns

Vicki Janik

Academic Grievance

Casey Bond

Professional Grievance

Barbara Maertz

Legislative Chair

Darleyne Mayers

Legislative Chair

Jim Macinick

Library Concerns

Debbie Nilsen

Membership Chair

Margaret Porciello

Newsletter Editor

Webmaster

Lou Scala

Dept Reps Chair

Russell Tuthill

Retiree Concerns

DELEGATES:

Academic

Douglas Cody

Susan Conforti

Lisa Eicher

Robert Elgart

John Hunt

Del Janik

Vicki Janik

Margaret Porciello

Robert Reganse

Lou Scala

Michael Smiles

Elena Erritta 1st alternate

Professional

Yolanda Pauze

Solomon Ayo

Valerie Madeska

Debbie Nilsen



Are You a Member?

Thomas P. DiNapoli New York State Comptroller		JOHN DOE		Total Gross		Fed Taxable Gross	
				Current YTD	3456.78 45,678.90	1234.56 34,567.89	
Advice #	123456789	Pay Start Date	07/13/2009	Net Pay 1,234.56			
Advice Date	07/12/2009	Pay End Date	07/27/009				
Department ID	1234			Pay Rate	78,910.11		
EARNINGS							
	Current	Earnings	YTD	TAX DATA			
	Hrs./Days		Hrs./Days	Earnings	Federal	State	NYC Yonkers
Regular Pay Salary Employee		3456.78		45,678.90	4	4	
Location Pay		96.78		678.90	2	0	
				Marital Status			
				Allowances			
				Adi. Amt.			
TAXES							
					Current	YTD	
				Fed Withholding	3,456.78	1,234.56	
				Medicare	45,678.90	34,567.89	
				Social Security	3,456.78	1,234.56	
				NY Withholding	45,678.90	34,567.89	
BEFORE TAX DEDUCTIONS							
	Current	YTD	AFTER TAX DEDUCTIONS				
			Current	YTD			
Regular Before Tax Health		456.78		1,234.56			
Supplemental Ret. Annuity Prog.		678.90		5,678.90			
TIAA Retirement Before Tax		96.78		1,234.56			
					UUP Member 26P		
					34.56	456.78	

CHECK PAY STUB TO MAKE SURE

In order to be a member of the union, your paycheck **must** say "UUP Member." If it says "UUP Agency Fee," then you are included in the Professional Services Negotiating Unit, but are *not* a member of the union.

UUP Membership Entitles You To:

- Vote on collective bargaining agreement
- Hold union office
- Attend union meetings
- Elect union leaders on your campus and choose your representatives at the state and national levels
- Maintain UUP membership after retirement and be eligible for benefit programs
- Upon separation of service, obtain Associate Membership with NYSUT and be eligible for benefit programs

Please contact your chapter officers for a membership card.

CHAPTER MEMBERS on STATEWIDE COMMITTEES

Solomon Ayo

Comm. Of VP for Professionals

Kathryn C. Bond

Grievance

Doug Cody

Part-Time Concerns

Technology Issues

Robert Elgart

Membership

Henry G. Ellis

Part-time Concerns

Elena Erritta

Part-time Concerns

Staci Gardner

UUP Outreach

Women's Rights & Concerns

Del Janik

Globalization &

Corporatization

Solidarity

Vicki Janik

Evaluation Task Force

Grievance

Task Force on Emerging Issues

of Diversity*

Women's Rights & Concerns*

Barbara Maertz

Active Retired Membership

Finance

Darleyne Mayers

Affirmative Action

EOC Concerns **

Task Force on Emerging Issues

of diversity

Task Force on Pay Equity Based

on Race

UUP Outreach

Yolanda Pauze

Comm. of Chapter Presidents

Task Force on Pay Equity Based

on Race

Strategic Planning Implementation

Task Force

Technology Sector

Margaret Porciello

Technology Issues*

Women's Rights & Concerns

Robert Reganse

Comm. of VPs for Academics

EOC Concerns***

Evaluation Task Force*

Technology Sector

Lou Scala

EOP Concerns

Veteran Affairs

Mike Smiles

Technology Issues***

Technology Sector***

Diane Yorg

EOC Concerns

*indicates committee chairmanship

** indicates Vice Chair

*** indicates Executive Board Liaison

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.

SUNY is the **\$olution**