

More budget cuts looming

Midyear budget cuts are on the way, but it's not known yet how SUNY or UUP members may be affected.

Gov. David Paterson and legislative leaders agreed during a public meeting Wednesday (Sept. 23) to have their staffs jointly work to come up with a series of budget cuts. Once an agreement is reached, the governor will call the Legislature back into special session to vote on the cuts in an effort to close the state's \$2.1 billion budget deficit.

UUP President Phil Smith predicted that midyear budget cuts were a strong possibility. If SUNY is once again a target, Smith said UUP will stand firm in its opposition.

"SUNY took the biggest hit of any state agency from prior reductions," Smith said. "SUNY can't sustain any more cuts."

Watch for e-mail updates that will be issued when details of how SUNY might be affected are announced.

2009 Fall Delegate Assembly

UUP's 2009 Fall DA is being held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center next weekend (Oct. 2-3). Nearly 400 delegates are expected to participate in the meeting of UUP's policymaking and legislative body.

The theme of the DA is "Applauding Excellence." Among the highlights is the presentation of the Nina Mitchell Distinguished Service Award, the union's highest honor, to Michael Zweig of Stony Brook. He's being recognized for his long service to the labor movement.

Additionally, the four SUNY students awarded with this year's UUP College Scholarship will be at the DA to accept their awards.

On the agenda is a vote on a proposed constitutional amendment that would eliminate the requirement that delegates who are candidates for statewide office must be present at the DA at which elections occur.



Photo by Casey Cannistraci/SUNY

UUP President Phil Smith presents a copy of *The Voice* to SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher prior to the start of their first face-to-face meeting in Albany.

President Smith meets with SUNY chancellor

SUNY's new chancellor has an appreciation of the collective bargaining process. That's among the things UUP President Phil Smith said he learned during his first meeting with Nancy Zimpher, who assumed the role of chancellor June 1. Smith characterized the one-hour session held in the chancellor's office in Albany Tuesday (Sept. 22) as "a very good meeting."

"We're pretty much on the same page," Smith said, describing their meeting as an initial step in laying the foundation for a positive relationship.

Smith came away with the belief that the chancellor is a proponent of two major principles for SUNY that UUP strongly supports: accessibility and affordability. And Smith believes Zimpher – like UUP –

will be a strong advocate for increased state support for SUNY.

"She agrees that New York state needs to take greater responsibility for its public universities," he said.

Zimpher came to SUNY after serving five years as president of the University of Cincinnati, where Smith said she worked cooperatively with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) that represents UC faculty.

Both Smith and Zimpher pledged to work together on the many areas where they agree, and to work "assiduously," as Smith put it, on areas where they have differences.

Among the points on which they agree: to meet as necessary.

Reminders/Upcoming meetings

- **Oct. 1**—UUP Executive Board meeting, Rochester
- **Oct. 2-3**—2009 Fall DA, Rochester
- **Oct. 23-24**—North Country Retreat, Lake Placid
- **Oct. 23-25**—AFT Civil, Human Rights & Women's Conference, Miami Beach
- **Oct. 30-31**—Chapter Presidents and Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown
- **Nov. 6**—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany
- **Nov. 6-7**—Outreach Retreat, Albany
- **Nov. 13-15**—Community College Leadership Conference, Cooperstown

(*excerpts of selected newsclips*)

TIMES UNION—Sept. 25

Paterson warns of more red ink

Gov. Paterson meets with legislative leaders to develop a strategy to deal with the state's budget deficit:

Anyone looking for good news about the state's fiscal situation should have steered clear of Wednesday's meeting between Gov. David Paterson and state legislative leaders. The latest bit of gloom: The governor believes the projected \$2.1 billion deficit for the remainder of this fiscal year will grow to \$3 billion.

"That is not a hard number; that is basically my estimate," said Paterson, seated next to newly affirmed Lt. Gov. Richard Ravitch in the ornate Red Room of the Capitol. "It may not be as great as I describe it. It may be worse."

Moreover, Paterson said the state has already tapped unused sources of money through "sweeps" of budgeted but unused funds from state agencies and authorities; it has also expended federal FMAP or Medicaid money that could be used for other purposes....

Full story available at:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=845139&category=STATE>

Press & Sun-Bulletin—Sept. 22

BU gets \$3.33 million stimulus grant for research

Two UUP members at Binghamton will benefit from federal stimulus grants to help fund their research:

...roughly \$550,000 of the \$1.64 million grant from the National Science Foundation will assist Eriks Rozners, an associate professor of chemistry, study ribonucleic acids or RNA. Rozners is looking for ways to chemically modify RNA, which is essential in the creation of proteins and plays a role in gene regulation....

...Lisa Savage, a professor of psychology, will get \$125,000 from the National Institutes of Health's total grant to BU of \$1.69 million to continue studying neurochemical and neuro-anatomical abnormalities....

Full story available at:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200909220421>

THE BUFFALO NEWS—Sept. 18

UB professor to receive innovative award from Obama

A UUPer has a date at the White House to receive a top honor from the president:

President Obama on Thursday announced that he will present the nation's top innovation award to a professor at the University at Buffalo who, while working at Greatbatch Inc., invented the

tiny batteries that power pacemakers and implantable defibrillators.

Esther S. Takeuchi, a professor in UB's chemical and biological engineering department and in its electrical engineering department, will receive the National Medal of Technology and Innovation at a White House ceremony Oct. 7....

In honoring Takeuchi, Obama is singling out a scientist who holds more than 140 patents, which, UB has said, may be more than any woman in the world.

Takeuchi's most important invention, the silver vanadium oxide battery, is key to the success of cardiac defibrillators, pacemakers and other medical implants now commonly used throughout the world....

Full story available at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/799039.html>

The New York Times—Sept. 16

Promising a new day, again

The new president of the AFL-CIO is optimistic when it comes to reversing the decreasing number of unionized workers nationwide:

The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor organization, has often been criticized for being "male, pale and stale" — dominated by cigar-chomping, golf-playing chieftains.

But as Richard L. Trumka assumes the group's presidency on Wednesday, he says he is determined to improve labor's image and woo a younger generation that either thinks of unions as irrelevant, or does not think of them at all.

Mr. Trumka — a burly former coal miner who comes out of one of the nation's oldest unions, the United Mine Workers, and looks like Mike Ditka — acknowledges that reversing labor's seemingly inexorable slide will be a challenge. Still, he thinks the weak economy, long stagnant or declining wages, the prospect of a jobless recovery, and the continuing exodus of jobs to developing countries will all bolster the case for unions.

"The generation of workers 18 to 34 probably needs union more than any generation ever before because of what's happening with this economy," said Mr. Trumka, 60, a forceful speaker....

Full story available at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/16/business/16labor.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=promising%20a%20new%20day,%20again%20&st=cse

Newsday—Sept. 15

SUNY chief unveils broad plan to spur state economy

New SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher pre-

sents a framework for developing a new strategic plan for the University before the SUNY Board of Trustees:

The new chancellor of the State University of New York unveiled a strategic plan Tuesday that seeks to more sharply focus areas the sprawling 64-campus SUNY system can target to help spark the state's economy.

The times are challenging economically for the state, Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher said in an interview after the SUNY Board of Trustees meeting in Manhattan, where she announced her plan to begin statewide "conversations" about how SUNY can be a driving force behind the state's economic revitalization....

Full story available at:

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/suny-chief-unveils-broad-plan-to-spur-state-economy-1.1451354>

THE BUFFALO NEWS—Sept. 12

SUNY's research funding probed

This article reveals that federal authorities have launched an investigation of the SUNY Research Foundation:

Federal agents are investigating the State University of New York and an associated research foundation to determine whether federal money dedicated to research is being used properly, law enforcement officials told The Buffalo News.

The investigation revolves around one question: When the University at Buffalo and other state institutions receive federal funds designated for one research project, do they sometimes use that money on other projects?

Authorities said the probe could have serious ramifications for SUNY, which receives more than \$500 million annually to fund research projects at UB and throughout the state.

While law enforcement officials said the investigation has been under way for months, it became more widely known last week, when the U.S. attorney's office in Buffalo issued subpoenas for numerous documents in Albany.

Those subpoenas require SUNY and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York — a private, not-for-profit organization based in Albany that works closely with SUNY — to turn over records on how federal money was spent on research projects all over the state, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert G. Trusiak....

Full story available at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/home/story/793645.html?imw=Y>