

Leaders get first look at strategic plan

UUPers participating in the Leadership Workshops in Cooperstown Oct. 30-31 got the first look at a draft strategic plan for the union.

In addition to the scheduled workshops—ranging from communications and problem solving to collective bargaining and grievances—the

UUP Task Force on Strategic Planning made a special presentation. Co-chaired by John Delate of Purchase and Darryl Wood of Binghamton, the 12-member task force was charged with crafting “broad strategic initiative recommendations for the statewide leadership to advance the union in the next five years,” Delate said.

The strategic plan focused on three broad topics: communication (branding, targeting, educating and increasing channels); chapter development (research, training, mentorship and development); and workforce preservation (enrollment, training, data collection and



Task Force on Strategic Planning Co-chairs John Delate, left, and Darryl Wood, inset, offer a first look at a new strategic plan to help UUP develop a new generation of leaders and engaged members.

Photos by Karen L. Mattison

salary enhancement).

Wood said the task force “expects there will be lots of overlap among the three areas.” Delate added, “We hope this plan will help us develop a new generation of leadership and engaged membership.”

Among the ideas kicked around by the new and veteran leaders: educate the membership on the role of UUP; provide chapters with the resources they need to be most effective; understand the trends in higher ed to better influence public policy; and work to develop and strengthen coalitions.

The task force will seek further input from the UUP officers and Executive Board before making its final recommendations, expected by the end of the year.

Other members of the task force are Mike Behun, Buffalo Center; Carol Braund, Upstate; Ray Dannenhoffer, Buffalo HSC; Jim Engle, Morrisville; Kiko Franco, Old Westbury; Yolanda Pauze, Farmingdale; Laura Rhoads, Potsdam; John Romeo, NYSTI; Rafael Romero, SUNY IT; and John View, ESF.

Capitol Update

UUP has some strong allies in its fight to restore the \$90 million midyear budget cut. The union has gathered support from several leading legislators.

“Considering the growing enrollment and economic benefits it provides, the SUNY system should not be subjected to the type of disproportionate budget cuts being proposed by Gov. Paterson,” said Sen. Ken LaValle, the ranking minority member of the Senate Higher Education Committee.

Assemblywoman Deborah Glick and Sen. Toby Stavisky, chairs of the Legislature’s Higher Education committees, also decried the cuts.

“At a time when the student enrollment at CUNY and SUNY has burgeoned to record levels and our society demands more educational experience than ever before, it is counterintuitive to heap more cuts on these critical assets,” Glick said.

“We believe this is an unfair burden on New York’s students and the state’s economic future,” Stavisky added.

Smith testifies against cuts

The positive feedback from lawmakers followed UUP President Phil Smith’s testimony at Senate and Assembly budget committee hearings in late October. Smith said the \$90 million cut meant SUNY bore 18% of the \$500 million reduction the governor imposed on all state agencies.

“There is no reasonable justification to place such an undue burden on one state agency,” Smith told lawmakers.

Members rally for the cause

UUPers also joined student-led rallies on several campuses, including Oneonta, Plattsburgh, Buffalo Center and Cortland, and marched in Manhattan with fellow unionists from CUNY, UFT, NYSUT and Hunter College students protesting budget cuts to SUNY and CUNY.

If your chapter plans to participate in campus rallies organized by students, please alert our Communications Department at (518) 640-6600.

Reminders/Upcoming meetings

- **Nov. 6-7**—UUP Outreach Committee Retreat, Albany
- **Dec. 4-5**—Affirmative Action Retreat, Headquarters
- **Dec. 4-5**—Evaluation Task Force meeting, Headquarters
- **Dec. 11**—UUP Executive Board meeting, Headquarters

(*excerpts of selected newsclips*)

INSIDE HIGHER ED —Nov. 2

Insult to Injury

UUP President Phil Smith questions why SUNY and CUNY are being targeted by midyear budget cuts as UUPers joined their brothers and sisters from PSC and other unions at a New York City rally protesting budget reductions for both public university systems:

Already wounded by budget reductions that came in July and before, college leaders are now scrambling to squeeze even more from coffers, daunted by the real expectation that there are further cuts still to come.

With the academic year in full swing, 26 states have now seen budget shortfalls that total \$16 billion, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities....

In New York, the mobilized voices rallying for higher education include the United University Professions, a union representing 35,000 SUNY faculty and staff. Phillip Smith, the union's president, says Paterson's proposal disproportionately punishes SUNY, which would carry 18 percent of the \$500 million in cuts.

"The question," he says, "is why so much? And why is it all aimed at one agency that has the ability to assist New York in its economic recovery?"...

Full story available at:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/11/02/cuts>

TIMES UNION —Nov. 2

SUNY leader deflects focus of case

The president of the SUNY Research Foundation attempts to distance himself from a federal grand jury investigation of potential Medicaid fraud:

The head of the Research Foundation of the State University of New York, who ran SUNY for much of this year, told foundation directors and SUNY trustees that his staff are not the target of a federal grand jury, and that criminal inquiries concern SUNY campus and state officials.

Research Foundation President John J. O'Connor, who is vice chancellor of SUNY, wrote to his two boards, newly minted Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and SUNY presidents Oct. 29 distancing himself from three subpoenas issued upon foundation officials this year. He said the most recent subpoenas involve about eight foundation employees as targets for potential criminal indictments, but that they don't work with him. He empha-

sized that no one at central staff in Albany has been subpoenaed and that the headquarters is only responsible for fiscal administration. ...

Full story available at:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=860496&category=STATE>

WSTM-TV—Oct. 29

SUNY Cortland students protest funding cuts

UUP Cortland Chapter President Jamie Dangler is the main speaker at a campus rally organized by students to protest the \$90 million midyear budget cut against SUNY:

SUNY Cortland faculty and staff members like Jamie Dangler say further cuts this year would be devastating. ...

Full story and video available at:

<http://www.cnycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=369736>

PressRepublican —Oct. 29

Hundreds protest at Plattsburgh State

UUP Plattsburgh Chapter President David Curry helps lead a campus rally of UUP members and students protesting Gov. Paterson's \$90 million midyear budget cut for SUNY:

More than 200 students and faculty and staff gathered in the rain for Wednesday's protest in front of Kent Hall. It included speakers, music and the burning of fake money with Paterson's face on it as a symbolic gesture of the way students feel the governor is burning through SUNY dollars.

Plattsburgh State senior Eric Petersen held a sign that read, "SUNY Doesn't Spell Piggy Bank."...

SUNY is an investment in the future of the state of New York, said faculty Union President David Curry, and students are the future leaders. They need a system that works, said the associate professor of nursing and nutrition.

The \$4 million deficit at Plattsburgh State could translate to nearly \$12 million less in local economic benefits.

"That's a lot of pizzas, haircuts and car rides," Curry said. "People in the community depend on that."...

Full story available at:

http://www.pressrepublican.com/archivesearch/local_story_301225602.html

PressRepublican —Oct. 27

Plattsburgh State faces nearly \$4 million deficit

The latest state budget cut threatens job

reductions at Plattsburgh:

Plattsburgh State would have to cut nearly 70 positions to wipe out a multi-million-dollar budget deficit.

Or the State University of New York could increase tuition another \$670 — though if history repeats itself the state of New York would simply keep that money to fill its own budget holes.

Neither of the above examples are being acted upon at this point but were used by university officials as examples to illustrate the gravity of the financial mess Plattsburgh State faces. No matter what, college officials must make tough decisions that will negatively impact the college and its students. ...

Full story available at:

http://www.pressrepublican.com/archivesearch/local_story_299225039.html

The Journal News —Oct. 26

State fiscal crisis strikes hard at higher education

New York is poised for another round of midyear cuts in both public university systems and in financial aid under the Tuition Assistance Program, which affect hundreds of thousands of families.

Legislative leaders are now analyzing the cuts proposed by Gov. David Paterson to deal with a deficit in the current budget of more than \$3 billion.

United University Professions union President Phillip H. Smith calls the proposal unfair and counterproductive to a strong recovery. He said the cuts will shift more costs to students and their families, force higher tuition and fees, hurt on-time graduation because fewer classes will be offered, and result in fewer full-time professors.

He notes the cuts come after a midyear cut last year and, unlike most state-funded agencies, a decade of little growth in SUNY funding.

"I can't deny that the state is in a tremendous financial mess," Smith said. "There has to be cutbacks. But my question is why can't we look at this from more of a strategic point of view." He said that will provide the most savings while protecting critical programs and services that would be disproportionately hurt by even a small cut. ...

Full story available at:

<http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009910260360>