

Governor's address signals challenging year ahead

All signs point to a difficult time ahead for UUP in its efforts to secure an acceptable level of state support for SUNY. Judging by the tone and content of Gov. Paterson's annual message to the Legislature, the new year will be marked by a continued push to block budget cuts that threaten student's access and the quality of the University.

Delivering his State of the State address Jan. 6 before a joint session of the Legislature, the governor predicted "a winter of reckoning."

While he never specifically mentioned SUNY or public higher education in his address, the governor's call to end what he depicted as a "culture of overspending" left no doubt that UUP will have its work cut out this year. The actual level of state support the governor has in mind for SUNY won't be known until he releases his proposed 2010-11 budget on or about Jan. 19, but additional reductions seem likely.

"We do not expect the Executive Budget to be overflowing with funding for SUNY," said UUP President Phil Smith. "Based on the tenor of the governor's State of the State address, we're expecting another tough battle to preserve quality, public higher education in New York."

Because of the gloomy fiscal forecast, UUP is planning an aggressive advocacy drive in Albany and in legislators' home offices during this year's legislative session. And the union isn't wasting any time getting started. UUP's first advocacy day at the Capitol is set for Tuesday, Jan. 26, reflecting an earlier beginning than past years. Additional advocacy days in Albany are tentatively scheduled for Feb. 2, 9 and 23, March 9 and 22, and April 20 and 27. UUPers also participate in NYSUT advocacy days scheduled for March

2 and 16, and May 11.

President Smith said it is critical for UUP to be vigorous in its outreach efforts in Albany and around the state. He strongly urges chapter leaders to mobilize their members to participate in as many of the union's advocacy activities as possible.

"Tell your members it is 'go time,'" Smith said. "If we are to succeed in saving our University, we must be a frequent and visible presence in our elected representatives' Albany and district offices this year, giving them information on our legislative priorities and on the adverse effects of cuts to SUNY's budget. We must also use these outreach activities to find out where our legislators' interests and sympathies lie and to bring that information back to headquarters. We need to know which legislators are supportive of our concerns, which ones are not and which ones may just need more information."

Members interested in participating in advocacy activities should contact their respective chapter presidents or the UUP Legislation Department.

UUP is also preparing a major television and newspaper advertising campaign advancing the union's message that SUNY must be a funding priority. The TV ads are currently due to debut during February.

Meanwhile, the \$410 million in budget cuts

that have struck SUNY in the last two years continue to take their toll. Potsdam is the latest SUNY campus to be affected. The campus administration is cutting 59 full-time equivalent positions in order to save \$7.5 million. But Potsdam Chapter President Laura Rhoads said no faculty members are being forced to leave.

"There are people who have voluntarily decided to retire and people who have voluntarily decided they wish to leave SUNY Potsdam for other reasons," Rhoads explained in a recent radio interview. A spokesperson for the Potsdam administration echoed Rhoads' comment, saying most of the cuts would come through attrition.

Schedule district advocacy

Chapter leaders are urged to continue to schedule meetings with legislators in their district offices. During the legislative session, lawmakers usually return to their districts by Friday and are available on weekends.

Take advantage of these opportunities to keep telling lawmakers that SUNY has taken its fair share of cuts. You are encouraged to schedule visits through your chapters, but the UUP Legislation Department can help if you need it. Either way, don't forget to let UUP headquarters know about the advocacy visits you've scheduled.

Upcoming meetings/Events

- **Jan. 8-9**—NYSUT Higher Ed Council, NYC, FIT
 - **Jan. 26**—UUP Advocacy Day, Albany*
 - **Feb. 2**—UUP Advocacy Day, Albany*
 - **Feb. 4**—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany
 - **Feb. 5-6**—2010 Winter DA, Albany
 - **Feb. 9**—UUP Advocacy Day, Albany*
 - **Feb. 23**—UUP Advocacy Day, Albany*
 - **Feb. 26-27**—NYSUT Board of Directors meeting, Albany
 - **March 9**—UUP Advocacy Day, Albany*
- *Tentative dates—please check the UUP Web site for possible changes.*

NOTE: The links to the full articles bring you to a page on the publication's Web site. While every effort is made to ensure these links are still active, the publication may cancel or change these links without notice.

TIMES UNION —Jan. 7

A state under siege

In his annual State of the State address, Gov. Paterson minces no words to say he'll keep a tight reign on spending to help the state cope with its continuing fiscal crisis:

With the state's finances and his own political future on the ropes, Gov. David Paterson on Wednesday vowed to fight Albany's culture of "spending, power and approval" in a confrontational State of the State speech that took on nearly every corner of government.

"This is a winter of reckoning for New York," Paterson said to a solemn crowd of legislators and guests gathered in the Assembly chamber.

"Look at history," he said. "Cultures of addiction to spending, power and approval have ruined empires and now they threaten the Empire State."

Full story available at:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=885624>

DAILY NEWS —Jan. 6

Going postal as New York pension checks lost in mail

Thousands of state pension checks got lost in the mail:

The state controller's office says the U.S. Postal Service has lost many of the 60,000 pension checks it mailed last week...

Officials said most of the missing checks were destined for the Buffalo area.

Full story available at:

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2010/01/06/2010-01-06_going_postal_as_ny_pension_checks_lost_in_mail.html

THE BUFFALO NEWS —Jan. 5

UB, three SUNY colleges among 'best value' schools

A national financial magazine places 10 SUNY schools on its "best values" list for 2010:

The University at Buffalo and the state colleges in Geneseo, Fredonia and Brockport have been named to the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges for 2010" by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. ...

Other New York State institutions on the list were Binghamton University, No. 5; University at Stony Brook, No. 39; New Paltz State College, No. 53; and University at Albany, No. 84.

Full story available at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/other/wny/story/912593.html>

The New York Times —Jan. 3

The Case of the Vanishing Full-Time Professor

The ranks of full-time tenured faculty have declined dramatically over the past 50 years:

If you've written a few five-figure tuition checks or taken on 10 years' of debt, you probably think you're paying to be taught by full-time professors. But it's entirely possible that most of your teachers are freelancers.

In 1960, 75 percent of college instructors were full-time tenured or tenure-track professors; today only 27 percent are. The rest are graduate students or adjunct and contingent faculty — instructors employed on a per-course or yearly contract basis, usually without benefits and earning a third or less of what their tenured colleagues make. The recession means their numbers are growing.

Full story available at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/education/edlife/03strategy-t.html?scp=1&sq=vanishing%20full-time%20professor&st=cse>

THE BUFFALO NEWS —Dec. 29

New York cannot afford expansion UB is seeking

A letter to the editor from a Buffalo residents questions whether the University at Buffalo should proceed with its \$5 billion expansion plan when the state is in the throes of a fiscal crisis:

UB's goal makes no sense. There is no need for an expanded university. UB and the smaller colleges in the area have more than sufficient capacity to handle all of the young people who desire a college education. There is no way the state or the community can or should afford the amount of money that is being sought for expansion.

Full story available at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/opinion/everybodycolumn/story/907173.htm>

THE BUFFALO NEWS —Dec. 22

Incubator opens for business

SUNY Fredonia is among the sponsors of a

technology business incubator in Dunkirk that will initially house seven small businesses:

Perhaps the next Intel will get its start at the new technology business incubator that opened Monday, sponsored by area economic programs and Fredonia State College.

That high hope was mentioned at the opening of the building on Central Avenue. It can house up to 31 new businesses, each of them receiving start-up help from nearby Fredonia State College.

Full story available at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/businesstoday/localbusiness/story/901940.html>

Press & Sun-Bulletin —Dec. 20

BU prepares for next phase of \$550M campus rebuilding project

SUNY Binghamton announces an extensive campus construction program:

As Binghamton University enters year two of its five-year multimillion-dollar capital plan, the physical facilities department laid out its newest developments last week.

"Our capital plan is vibrant," said Larry Roma, BU's associate vice president of physical facilities.

With projects ranging in cost from \$1 million to \$150 million — and totaling \$550 million — BU is creating new residential halls, adding a new science building, constructing a rotunda connection for its engineering and science buildings, and renovating its Health Services building.

Full story available at:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009912200386>

Watertown Daily Times —Dec. 16

SUNY Potsdam set to trim 59 jobs

State budget cuts force SUNY Potsdam to pare its spending:

SUNY Potsdam has put 59 full-time-equivalent positions on the chopping block as part of a proposal to cut \$7.5 million from the college's \$40.3 million operational budget. The reduction plan was released to the campus Tuesday.

President John F. Schwaller said that the proposed cuts represent the college's best estimate for how much lower state funding will be for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Full story available via paid subscription by visiting www.wdt.net and clicking on archives.