

## The budget ax falls on SUNY, again

The midyear budget cut that UUP feared would come arrived Tuesday (Oct. 6). The governor unilaterally imposed a \$90 million spending reduction on SUNY as part of a wider \$500 million cut assigned to state agencies.

Within minutes of the governor's announcement, UUP President Phil Smith responded by, saying this latest reduction goes "beyond draconian."

"The reduction means SUNY will likely be forced to deny access to thousands of students by scaling back on its student admissions and enrollments. That would leave thousands of New Yorkers with no place to go for an affordable, accessible, public college education," he said.

Smith warned the impact of the cuts extends to the state's economy.

"SUNY is one of the state's major economic engines," he said. "It makes no sense to disinvest in SUNY at a time when the economy is already reeling."

Smith emphasized that SUNY has been targeted for cuts far too often, beginning with an \$148 million midyear reduction last year, followed by a loss in state support of \$172 million in the 2009-10 state budget. This latest cut brings the overall cut to SUNY to a whopping \$410 million, amounting to a 25 to 30% reduction in state



UUP President Phil Smith speaks out against the governor's \$90 million budget cut for SUNY during an appearance on Capital Tonight, a public affairs program that airs on Time Warner Cable systems in most of upstate.

support that otherwise would have been available to the University.

The latest cut widens the growing gap in state support for SUNY. Smith noted that in 1990, 75% of SUNY's funding came from state support and the 25% from tuition. Now, SUNY will only get 45% of its revenue from state support and 55% from tuition.

"SUNY is a public university, and should be supported by public funds," Smith said.

He called on the governor to reverse course and roll back his latest spending reduction. Smith asked UUP members to help by sending letters to the governor via the union's Web site urging him to do just that. Members, students, parents and business leaders can help by sending a letter to state lawmakers encouraging the governor to restore the \$90 million. Letters can be found on the home page of UUP's Web site at [www.uupuinfo.org](http://www.uupuinfo.org).

## UUP political action

The governor's \$90 million cut aimed at SUNY underscores the need for UUP members to become active advocates for the union. UUP has mapped out an ambitious political action calendar to tackle this latest budget cut and another possible reduction in the proposed 2010-2011 state budget.

Through December, the calendar calls on members to mount advocacy efforts in the communities surrounding their campuses, meeting with state lawmakers in their home districts. On Jan. 26, Albany advocacy activities kickoff in earnest with UUP's annual Legislative Information Day, when UUP members share concerns with dozens of state legislators at the Legislative Office Building in Albany.

That's followed by a series of advocacy days in Albany nearly every Tuesday during February and March. Members will also urge lawmakers to approve the union's 2010 legislative agenda.

### Reminders/Upcoming meetings

- **Oct. 12**—Columbus Day; UUP office open
- **Oct. 12**—Strategic Planning meeting, UUP office
- **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**—UUP Outreach Retreat, Albany
- **Nov. 13-15**—Community College Leadership Conference, Cooperstown

(excerpts of selected newsclips)

## **Newsday** —Oct. 7

### **Cuts may force SUNY to drop programs, boost class sizes**

UUP joins with SUNY and its Long Island campuses in describing the effects the governor's \$90 million midyear budget cut will have:

SUNY colleges might have to eliminate programs, enlarge class sections and reduce course offerings to comply with \$90 million in budget cuts the university system must make to meet spending cuts Gov. David A. Paterson ordered this week to help deal with an estimated \$2.1 billion state budget deficit, local and SUNY officials said.

"SUNY will do all it can to protect the quality of the education our students receive, but this is increasingly difficult at a time of scarce resources," said SUNY spokesman David Henahan.

The midyear cuts Paterson has imposed administratively affect SUNY's four-year colleges, not the community colleges, where a budget cut would require legislative action, a governor's spokesman said.

Henahan added the cutback will mean campuses will continue to delay hiring or freeze hiring, "delay and eliminate programs and purchases and students could see larger class sections, fewer course offerings and reductions in other services."...

"It baffles me that when we have a state institution that has the ability to create a positive economy for this state, that this governor would paint a bull's-eye on the back of SUNY and continually aim right in the center of it," said Phillip H. Smith, president of United University Professions, which represents 35,000 faculty and professional staff. ...

Full story available at:

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/cuts-may-force-suny-to-drop-programs-boost-class-sizes-1.1508512>

## **The Journal News** —Oct. 6

### **Paterson directs agencies to cut \$500M**

UUP responds to the governor's order to cut SUNY's budget by \$90 million as part of an overall \$500 million midyear spending reduction:

Gov. David Paterson on Tuesday ordered state agencies to cut operating expenses by 11 percent, or \$500 million, in the current fiscal year.

The move comes as the state grapples with what is expected to be a \$3 billion midyear budget gap in the fiscal year, which runs until March 31. Last year, facing a similar midyear budget gap, Paterson implemented a 10 percent cut....

Paterson said the cuts must come from "non-personal service" budgets, such as funding for travel, printing, vehicles and equipment.

"While agencies have already taken significant action to reduce spending since I took office,

further cuts are necessary given the state's persistent fiscal difficulties," he said in a statement...

The State University of New York, which raised tuition this year, said it would comply with the reductions. SUNY will have to reduce spending by \$90 million.

"SUNY will do all it can to protect the quality of the education our students receive, but this is increasingly difficult at a time of scarce resources," spokesman David Henahan said.

Labor unions criticized Paterson's plan. Phillip Smith, president of United University Professions, which represents SUNY faculty, said the cuts go "beyond draconian" and will deny access to public college for thousands of students. ...

Full story available at:

<http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009910070323>

*Note: This article also appeared in the Press & Sun-Bulletin (Binghamton), Poughkeepsie Journal, Ithaca Journal and Star-Gazette (Elmira).*

## **THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER ED** —Oct. 6

### **Reinstated Adjunct at Binghamton U. Says She Was a Casualty of Athletics Ambition**

A part-time faculty member at Binghamton is reinstated shortly after being told her contract would not be renewed:

An adjunct instructor at Binghamton University who was told her contract would not be renewed because of budget problems says she was actually a casualty of the university's quest to build a nationally acclaimed basketball team.

Late last month, the university told Sally Dear, the instructor, that she would not be reappointed at the end of the semester. Ms. Dear had complained to *The New York Times* that she had been pressured to give basketball players better grades than they deserved. She has now been reinstated, at least temporarily.

"It is no secret to anyone that the president's desire to get to the NCAA championship trumped everything else," says Ms. Dear, who believes the university, which is part of the State University of New York, originally let her go in retaliation for speaking out. "I got caught right in the middle of it."...

Full story available via paid subscription at:

[http://chronicle.com/article/Reinstated-Adjunctat/48722/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/Reinstated-Adjunctat/48722/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

## **PostStar** —Oct. 3

### **SUNY should OK increase**

This editorial supports the state comptroller's recommendation to let SUNY increase tuition to out-of-state students:

It figures that the one thing New York offers that's cheaper than anybody else is costing state

taxpayers millions of dollars.

We're talking about tuition for the state university system. New York residents are getting the shaft — to the tune of \$340 million over four years — because we're undercharging out-of-state residents for tuition.

Imagine, New York is undercharging for something. How did that slip by the Legislature?

That's what state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli thought, so he embarked on a crusade to raise the out-of-state rate in order to bring New York into line with what other states charge.

On average, the comptroller reported, New York's out-of-state tuition is nearly \$8,500 less than public universities in other states. And while out-of-state tuition has remained comparably affordable, tuition for in-state residents has risen at a greater percentage over time. It's still a bargain, but it's not the bargain it could be.

Raising out-of-state tuition to be more in line with what other states charge is a smart idea that's long overdue.

Not only would raising the out-of-state tuition rate help generate additional revenue for the state, it might also discourage some out-of-state students from applying here, thereby opening more spots in the SUNY schools for New Yorkers. ...

Full story available at:

<http://www.poststar.com/articles/2009/10/03/opinion/today/15321222.txt>

## **TIMES UNION** —Sept. 29

### **DATA AT RISK FROM SCAM?**

The personal information for more than 300,000 public workers could be compromised:

Personal data for more than 300,000 state and local public employees could be at risk from an extortion scheme aimed at a company that used to administer the state's health insurance drug benefits, officials said Monday.

St. Louis-based Express Scripts is offering a \$1 million reward for anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or group of people who hacked into its database and then demanded money to keep the information secret.

The company says it won't pay the extortion demand.

So far, there's no indication that personal information of Express Scripts customers has been misused. "We've not seen any reported cases," said company spokeswoman Maria Palumbo. ...

Full story available at:

[http://archives.timesunion.com/mweb/wmsql.wm\\_request?oneimage&imageid=8767238](http://archives.timesunion.com/mweb/wmsql.wm_request?oneimage&imageid=8767238)