

It is important to write quickly because it is the start of negotiation between the two houses of the legislature and there is a lot of money for higher education.

From the President *A. W. (Bill) Godfrey*

Although this is the year that we expect better things from the state legislature, there have been a few surprises which need to be addressed. Last week the Assembly came out with their budget proposal. They did not include our recommendation of \$15 million for restoration of 300 lines to SUNY to replace the 1600 that have been lost over the last several years. We are urging you to write to your assemblyman (and senator) asking for this restoration, pointing out that the percentage of part-time faculty has nearly tripled in the last five years and that the number of full-time faculty has caused considerable damage to academic programs at this university or along the following lines:

"We know you have been a supporter of a first-rate SUNY system. Constant cuts have reduced tax levy funding from 89% to 45% (at Stony Brook it is 24%). As a consequence, 1600 full-time lines have been lost system-wide and have been replaced by part-time faculty which short-changes the students who receive inadequate guidance and often cannot find their professor for academic advisement or letters of recommendation. We ask for a restoration of 300 of these lines which will cost about \$15 million.

Since this is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of SUNY, it would be wise to make a multi-year funding commitment to the university in the same way it is made to STAR and other educational programs."

Senate

The Honorable Kenneth LaValle
806, LOB
Albany, New York 12247

The Honorable James Lack
413 CAP
Albany, New York 12247

The Honorable Caesar Trunzo
711, LOB
Albany, New York 12247

Assembly

The Honorable Patricia Acampora
725 LOB
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Steven Englebright
327, LOB
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Fred Thiele
530, LOB
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Paul Harenberg
724, LOB
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable John J. Flanagan, Jr.
444, LOB
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Debra Mazarelli
527, LOB Albany,
New York 12248

The Honorable Robert Wertz
404, LOB
Albany, New York 12248

Another surprise was the recommendation that tuition be decreased \$250. This is a good election-year ploy. Nevertheless, it will probably result effectively in a budget cut of about eight percent which will not be made up in other areas of the SUNY budget. In addition, it is quite likely that once the election is settled, next year will see a very large increase in tuition which will result in a substantial reduction of enrollment.

The new contract will be in effect only a year when the next contract is negotiated. Consequently, there will be little time to determine how the current contract is working. It is likely that the contract will be negotiated under adverse circumstances, without a budget surplus and the state declaring "fiscal exigency." Mandated programs like STAR, Universal Pre-Kindergarten, the tax cut, and the loss of federal welfare money will have a further impact on state revenue. Next year is not an election year and voters will have no way to react until the following year when there will be legislative blandishments to help voters forget.

The Stony Brook Council with the support of the Administration will award a "medal of excellence" to Governor Pataki on the April 27th anniversary of Stony Brook. Although he has been instrumental in approving new buildings (but without funding to staff them), his budget proposals for SUNY in the last several years have been disastrous and restorations have been made only through the good will of the legislature, spurred by the intense lobbying efforts of UUP.

In this year's capital budget Stony Brook has done very well, including the new Humanities Building which may break ground in 1999.

PDQ DEADLINE

The campus deadline for Fall 1998-Spring 99 Drescher Affirmative Action Leave Grant is April 22. Call 2-6570 for an application, guidelines and procedures.

1997 DISCRETIONARY SALARY INCREASE

The discretionary salary increases were reflected in the March paychecks. In spite of the guidelines offered by Human Resources, the usual pattern of distribution was generally observed as the chart below indicates. The guidelines specified that there was "the flexibility to recognize exceptional performers and address critical salary inequities." It is clear that the directive was not followed.

25 Members earning more than \$100,000 had an average increase of \$1545

71 Members earning between \$75,000 and \$100,000 had an average increase of \$1073

284 Members earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000 had an average increase of \$1171

260 Members earning between \$30,000 and \$50,000 had an average increase of \$1032

41 Members earning less than \$30,000 had an average increase of \$653.

680 members shared \$742,450.

The average professional increase was \$822. The average academic increase was \$1327.