

UP InSight

Newsletter of the
Stony Brook Chapter of
United University
Professions
March 1996
Issue #3

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A. W. (BILL) GODFREY

The budget is at a critical point right now. Attendance at the hearings was sparse which may indicate the great apathy of our members. We are really at a crisis point and need everyone to participate in our letter-writing campaign as well as visits to the local legislators.

The Stony Brook bus trip to Albany is also of great importance. The bus will leave on March 19th for Albany with the President on it. We must get the Stony Brook message across to legislators. We have made appointments and teams will visit at individual offices. You will be given training and information so that there is no need to be intimidated by elected officials. Please call the Union office at 2-6570. The response to the appeal for volunteers to visit district offices on March 8th was disappointing.

This year's budget could result in the loss of programs, departments, and several hundred positions at Stony Brook. It could also result in a workload increase about which we can do nothing. Please support us.

"Can SUNY Afford Cornell?"

Some of you may have read the article in the New York Times of February 21st entitled "Can SUNY Afford Cornell?" State funding for SUNY has been reduced over the years and is now 49% of our total budget. On the other hand, you should know that the SUNY part of Cornell has held steady because of its connections in the legislature. The New York Times article mentioned that Senator Lack, our senator at Stony Brook, was one of the strongest advocates for Cornell funding.

NYSUT Community Service Award

Congratulations to Monica Roth who has won a community service award from NYSUT, our parent union. She is one of three recipients throughout the SUNY system.

Dinner Dance Postponed

Because of the need to focus our efforts and resources on the budget restoration, we have postponed the annual dinner dance. If there are enough funds in our treasury, we will reschedule the dance.

AFL-CIO

The AFL/CIO will be sponsoring a campus organizing institute for undergraduates. The new leadership of the union is looking for college students to consider careers in union organizing. They will be on campus March 18 - 22. This is a field that is difficult but satisfying. If you would like representatives to make brief (or

long) presentations in your class, please contact Michael Zweig at 2-7536.

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The new academic plan has been promulgated. There will be a period for reaction. The Union will hold a series of workshops on the implications of the plan.

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During the last two months UUP at Stony Brook has actively opposed the cuts to SUNY imposed by the Governor's budget. We have also been critical of "Rethinking SUNY," a document of the trustees which essentially dismantles the comprehensiveness of a great university system. UUP and its coalition has mounted a letter-writing campaign on campus. We have also lobbied legislators in Albany on six Tuesdays since the beginning of the year. We have also given testimony at three legislative hearings at Stony Brook and at Old Westbury. Among the positions we have taken are the following:

- Full restoration of funding to SUNY.
- Opposition of differential tuition (Higher tuition at Stony Brook would have a negative impact on enrollment.)
- Consolidation or reduction of departments or programs should be driven not by fiscal constraints but by educational considerations.
- Reduction of staff and course offerings has increased the length of time it takes students to graduate.

JANUARY 8, 1996, Snow Day

We have been informed by Gary Matthews, Interim Director, University

Human Resources that his office "has received information from SUNY Systems Administration that indicates that employees represented by UUP will not have to charge accruals for absence on January 8, 1996...If you have already completed time reports charging the day, contact Employee Services/Payroll at 2-6180 for information as how to correct your timesheet or exception report."

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Hours: 8:30 - 3:00

The Stony Brook Chapter Executive Board meets on alternate Thursdays at 1:00. All Executive Board Meetings are open to the membership. Please feel free to attend.

UUP is affiliated with NYSUT and AFT (local 2190)