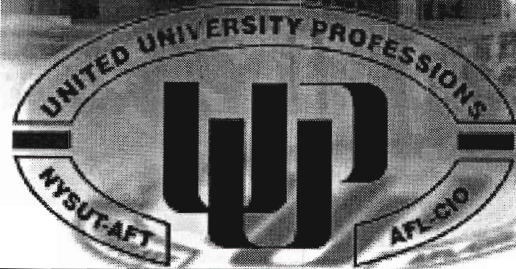


INSIGHT



NEWSLETTER OF THE STONY BROOK CHAPTER
OF UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

ISSUE # 02-1

January '02



UUP Dinner Dance

Friday
February 15, 2002

7 pm to 11 pm

@ the Port Jefferson Country Club

\$25 per person

Includes Dinner, Dancing
And chances for valuable prizes!

**Come join the fun!
All are welcome!**

Send/Bring checks payable to UUP
to the UUP Office,
104 Old Chemistry,
Z = 3475

Limited Space—Reserve Early!

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Why Professors Turn to Unionism

By Ellen Willis (New York University), President, NYU AAUP Chapter

The following article appeared in the New York Academe, (Fall, 2001), a publication of the New York Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). AAUP finds nothing abnormal about calling themselves a union. Of the few SUNY staff who have not joined UUP many resist the idea of a union and have championed AAUP, not realizing that AAUP and UUP are not two different species. This article appeared in the New York Times.

I am a manager, or so I'm told; as a tenured professor at a private university, I belong to a self-governing community of scholars. Why then would I imagine I need, of all things, a union?

In 1980 the Supreme Court, citing the collegial structure of the medieval university, ruled that Yeshiva University need not recognize its faculty union because professors are part of management. The decision choked off private-sector faculty organizing for two decades. But now, this era may be ending. As part-time faculty members (not covered by the ruling) and graduate teaching assistants unionize, the professorate at private institutions is reassessing its situation.

Even in 1980, the Yeshiva decision was anachronistic. Today it's undeniable that universities, public or private, are modeled not on medieval guilds, governed by their members, but on modern corporations. Policy is made by a president (read chief executive) and administrative bureaucracy accountable, not to a community of scholars, but to funders and the board of trustees.

The corporate university is obsessed with its bottom line. Faculty members are regarded as employees who must be pressured to increase "productivity" by teaching more and larger classes at less pay and financing their own programs with outside grant money. Students and parents are seen as customers to be satisfied.

(Continued on page 2)



COMPUTER COURSES!

Both active and retired UUP members and their spouses are now eligible to take **FREE non-credit, professional development and computer classes.** Stony Brook's own School of Professional Development has been chosen as one of the training providers for these course offerings.

All courses are provided at no cost to the union, the member or their spouse.

Courses currently being offered are: **Introduction to Computers (includes introduction to Windows and Microsoft Word, Lotus Notes, Internet), Advanced Word Modules, Introduction to Excel, Advanced Excel Modules, Introduction to Access, Introduction to PowerPoint, Desktop Publishing, Web Design and Career Development Workshops.** Specialized training may be approved based on specific needs.

Additional courses will be added and are continuously scheduled upon request and classroom availability. Classes usually run 3 hours a day once a week. **Minimum class size of 10 is required and is formed after receipt of member application.** Courses vary from 4 to 10 weeks. Members may choose a day, evening or a weekend class. Day shift classes will be provided for those working nights or who have their Supervisor's permission for release time. Members may take as many classes as they wish. All facilities are handicapped accessible.

Just think, you can take courses right here on campus, which eliminates travel time and can conveniently fit into your schedule.

To participate, obtain an application form from the union office or contact Frank Esposito—SPD—SBS—N248—Campus Zip 4314 or at 632-7226 or at: frank.esposito@sunysb.edu.

See the SPD web Page, the section named "The consortium for Workforce Education" <http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/union.htm>

* SPD is located in the Social and Behavioral Sciences building right next to the parking garage on the campus side.

(Continued from page 1)

From the corporate viewpoint, traditional notions of shared governance and faculty autonomy are a nuisance that impede administrative "flexibility". Tenure is particularly galling, protecting both the "unproductive" and the insubordinate. So university administrators are doing their best to reduce faculty power. The number of tenured professors is rapidly shrinking relative to low-paid part-time and non-tenure track instructors—while a large percentage of undergraduate teaching is done by graduate students. Faculty "authority" over hiring and promotion amounts to the right to make recommendations that are frequently overridden; professors are increasingly denied a role in appointing administrators. "Merit pay" has largely become "market pay", based not on professors' scholarly achievements as judged by their peers, but on the demand for their services at other institutions.

Yet while the administrators of private universities—especially prestigious research institutions—attack the reality of faculty governance, they need to preserve the appearance. Their reputation depends on it: the idea of a community of scholars is an integral part of their appeal to "customers." And the rhetoric of collegiality remains their best defense against unions. By opposing the collegial ideal to the alien industrial mentality that unions supposedly inflict, they hope to keep full-time faculties not only from organizing themselves but from supporting union campaigns by graduate students and adjuncts.

At New York University, where I teach, impatience with this contradiction has led to a resurgence of faculty activism. When the NYU administration launched a scorched earth campaign against the graduate assistant's union, it ignored protests from the faculty. But after the NLRB certified the union, the administration considered refusing to bargain, on the grounds that it was morally bound to protect academic collegiality from intrusion by an outside organization. (The union is affiliated with the United Autoworkers.) By a large majority, professors who responded to a survey by the university's faculty council urged administrators to bargain, arguing that the real threat to collegiality lay in their indifference to student and faculty sentiment, not to mention the prospect of a divisive strike. The administration decided to deal.

Recently, NYU's board of trustees handpicked a new university president without benefit of a search committee that represented the NYU community, including the faculty. This violation of shared governance scandalized even conservative, anti-union professors. The Faculty of Arts and Science passed an official resolution condemning it. The campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors circulated a faculty petition. The Board Chairman's response: "We fully understand the faculty point of view, and we reject it." So much for professors as managers.

There's an old labor movement saying: "The boss organizes the shop." It promises to be as true of the academy as of the factory.

DEADLINE



Individual Development Awards Time is running out!

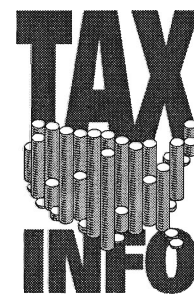
Applications must be received by close of business (3:00 p.m.) on Friday, March 29, 2002 in the UUP office at 104 Old Chemistry.

(Please note that this includes applications sent through campus mail—please allow ample time for delivery.)

Applications and information are available in the chapter office or online at <http://www.albany.net/~nysuup/pdsumm.htm>.

The award period covers activities between September 1, 2001 and August 31, 2002.

Only one application and one project or activity will be accepted per UUP employee per award period.



**FREE
Educator's Tax
Guides
Available**

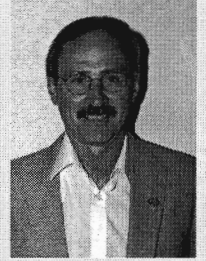
Educator's Tax Guides are once again available in the Union office. This guide

specializes in publishing tax related materials for those in the field of education, including teachers, administrators, and all academic personnel. A useful handbook, valued at \$16.75, will make tax preparation much easier. In addition to including the most recent changes in the tax laws, it contains special tax strategies after the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA). **Drop by and pick up your free copy, while supplies last, at 104 Old Chemistry.**

THE BUDGET AND THE CONTRACT: MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

A message from

**John P.
Schmidt,
Chapter
President**



I have a friend who works in the private sector. We often share experiences relative to our respective “companies”. Annual funding advice for both our companies comes in the form of a “budget call letter”. The SUNY call letter identified a no growth budget for the new fiscal year. My friend’s call letter included the following advisories:

- We have too much expense and not enough business.
- It is timely to tighten our company’s cost of personnel and overhead.
- Staff will be restructured and downsized.
- Regular pay for all staff (including owners) will be adjusted to a level below current salaries. Adjustments will be commensurate with the higher salaries taking the deepest cuts.
- We are truly sorry that this 2002 program may put individuals in a financial position where they can’t continue with us.

I was relieved to be working in the public sector (with its no growth target). But then I read Newsday’s January 7 article entitled “Albany’s Goodwill Goes Only So Far”, a treatise on the political reality of accomplishing anything in New York State. The Governor’s State of the State message, delivered January 10, suggests some degree of fiscal pain will be felt by all.

In the days and weeks ahead we will be subjected to a seemingly endless series of messages, reports and conclusions regarding the New York State budget. The options and solutions promise to be few and dire.

An article in the January 8, 2002 edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education asks "Is the Public Research University Dead?" The National Conference of State Legislatures has reported that 43 states are experiencing revenue shortfalls and more than half are considering budget cuts. In New York, the budget request for fiscal 02-03 is \$ 1.8 billion, the same as the current fiscal year. With across the board salary increases scheduled during 2003 (3.5% already negotiated by UUP), where will the additional funds be found?

If we roll back the clock to 1998, we will find a good deal of similarity in the forecasts of the fiscal health of the state and the university for that year. Budgetary tension is an all too familiar concept to experienced SUNY employees and especially those of us in UUP.

Over the years, UUP has worked hard to develop and maintain a network of contacts involving all of the principle players in the New York State budget process (aided by our VOTE/COPE contributions). Our Officers and legislative committee members make regular calls on staff in the Governor’s office, the Senate, the Assembly and the SUNY Chancellor.

My friend in the private sector has no such network of support. He and his colleagues are forced to negotiate one on one or accept whatever management has determined is the only solution to the fiscal dilemma .

As we all know, budget negotiations in the public sector take time and skillful maneuvering. It is axiomatic that the success of these negotiations is directly proportional to the degree in which the bargaining agent (in this case, UUP) is recognized as the true representative of its constituency (in this case, professional staff, librarians and faculty).

After this year’s budget reconciliation is reached, UUP will seat a committee that will negotiate our next multi-year contract. Once again, the perception of UUP as the voice for 26,000 SUNY staff must be fixed in the minds of those we negotiate with. That perception is founded in the percentage of employees who have signed on as members of UUP. We ask those of you who have not become members to consider adding your support to the efforts of UUP by simply signing a membership card. Feel free to contact the chapter office if you are unsure of your membership status.

When the time comes (and it will come) to visit or write our elected representatives and/or the SUNY leadership (Chancellor and Trustees) your action (or lack) will determine the strength of our negotiating position.

Our alternative, like the alternative for my private sector friend, “may put individuals in a financial position where they can’t continue with us”.

Insight is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip=3475. The opinions expressed in articles in the newsletter are those of the author or the Stony Brook Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

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Vice Presidents

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Ed Quinn	2-7275	equinn

Academic

Michael Zweig	2-7536	mzweig
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Grievance Chairs

Professional		
Melissa Bishop	2-9893	mbishop

Academic

Joel Rosenthal	2-7493	jrosenthal
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Treasurer

José Feliciano	2-8069	jfeliciano
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Secretary

Arthur Shertzer	2-8948	ashertzer
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Committee Chairs

Membership

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VOTE/COPE

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Bonnie A. Beck	273-8822	
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& Lisa Willis	2-6570	
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UUP Chapter Office

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104 Old Chemistry

Fax: 632-6571

Email: uup@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

<http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Admin/uup.nsf>

The Chapter Office is open

Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Executive Board meets on Alternate Tuesdays at 12 noon, and members are encouraged to attend.

STONY BROOK DAY IN ALBANY

February 26, 2002

**Last year we made an impact.
This year we'll make a difference!**

Register online at www.stonybrook.edu/albany or contact Pat Cruso

E-mail: Patricia.Cruso@stonybrook.edu Phone: (631) 632-4309



Stony Brook University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. If you need a disability-related accommodation, please call (631) 632-4309.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

DATES: Monday, January 21, 2002 and
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

TIME: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night

COST: Only \$25 per person

PLACE: Student Activities Center, Room 304

WHO: Open to UUP members & their immediate family

HOW TO REGISTER...

Checks should be made payable to "NYSUT Benefit Trust"

Bring or mail to UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip = 3475

Next class is scheduled for...Saturday, March 2, 2002, 10 a.m. to 4 pm..

Participants are usually entitled to a 10% discount on their automotive insurance—check with your provider!

The certificate is good for three years of savings!



UUP Chapter Office
104 Old Chemistry
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3475