

## Unions unite for ‘Committee of 100’ advocacy day

UUP brought the curtain down on its ambitious annual advocacy effort in Albany May 12, when nearly 30 UUP members joined their sisters and brothers from NYSUT for the Committee of 100 day.

In meetings with dozens of state lawmakers, UUPers and NYSUT members urged support for the bill that would provide unemployment insurance benefits for part-time SUNY faculty. They also pressed legislators to vote against a proposed Tier V retirement plan should the issue resurface. The Legislature rejected the proposal as part of the state budget.

The controversial issue of so-called flexibility for SUNY campuses came up during several of the meetings. The UUPers appealed to lawmakers to defeat the A./S. 2020 bill that would allow the University at Buffalo to sell or lease its property without legislative oversight and implement differential tuition.

In a meeting with Sen. Michael Razerhofer



UUPer Chris Callas of Cobleskill, left, speaks to Assemblyman Tom O'Mara (R-Horseheads) as he views UUP's Legislative Agenda during NYSUT's Committee of 100. Accompanying Callas are Cortland UUP members, from left, Kathy Lattimore and Nancy Kane.

(R-Amherst), Al Ermanovics of UB noted similar legislation regarding Stony Brook had been introduced.

“If this isn't stopped now, we could see our other University centers at Albany and Binghamton doing the same thing,” he said.

While the visits to Albany have concluded, the union's advocacy drive continues by sending letters to lawmakers through UUP's Web site.

Go to [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org) and click on “Call to Action,” where you'll find letters supporting the New York State Fair Pay Act, diversity in higher education, unemployment insurance for part-time employees, and a waiver of the state's sovereign immunity.

### Reminders/Upcoming meetings

- **May 25**—UUP office closed for Memorial Day
- **May 26**—UUP office summer hours begin, M-Th: 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; Fri: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- **June 6**—Conference for Professionals, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Huntington, L.I.
- **June 11-15**—AAUP annual meeting, Washington, D.C.
- **June 18-19**—UUP Executive Board Retreat, New Paltz
- **July 1-6**—NEA annual meeting, San Diego

## Expression of solidarity



UUP President Phil Smith, left, displays his solidarity with the Newspaper Guild of Albany, which is engaged in a bitter contract dispute with the Albany *Times Union*, by giving its president Tim O'Brien a UUP hat and T-shirt. But UUP's backing goes beyond a photo opportunity. Smith also handed O'Brien nine cards authorizing the Guild to cancel UUP's subscriptions to the paper. *Times Union* management has canceled the Guild's contract, vows to lay off staff without regard to seniority and outsource their work to other parts of the country. The Guild sought backing from UUP to show *TU* management that fellow unions support workers' rights. UUP members can help by visiting the union's Web site at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org) and clicking on “Labor solidarity request” on the home page, where they can authorize the Guild to cancel their subscriptions or send a message to the publisher.

## The Daily Star — May 8

### Record interest in SUNY Oneonta

[http://www.thedailystar.com/local/local\\_story\\_128041550.html](http://www.thedailystar.com/local/local_story_128041550.html)

Applications to area public colleges have risen, reflecting an increase across the State University of New York system and resulting in more competition for acceptance.

SUNY Oneonta received a record 12,595 admissions applications from potential freshmen, officials said this week; the college stopped accepting applications May 1.

At SUNY Delhi, as the number of applications has risen in the past three years, the percentage of students accepted has declined, a dean said Thursday. With retention rates increasing, fewer openings are available to freshmen.

Applications to SUNY Cobleskill are up 4 percent from last year and up 12 percent from year before that, officials said.

The college said it has been more selective in admissions for its freshman class, which last year had 1,194 students.

SUNY schools are seen as offering value to parents and students, officials said, as they worry about an uncertain economy and the cost of a college education.

SUNY tuition as of fall 2009 will be \$4,970 annually, according to the SUNY Oneonta website. Other costs at SUNY Oneonta are fees of \$1,260 and room and board of \$9,270, for a total of \$15,500.

Student applications across SUNY continue to rise at record levels and are at a 20-year high, said David Henahan, system spokesman. Year-to-date applications at state-operated campuses increased by 7.4 percent for fall 2009, he said.

By sector, he said, admissions applications are up 9.7 percent for university research centers; up 4.7 percent at university colleges; up 11.1 percent at technology colleges; and up 10.7 percent or higher at community colleges.

Since 2004, annual applications to SUNY state-operated campuses have increased nearly 25 percent, from 223,540 in 2004 to 278,362 in 2008.

Henahan said the numbers are a sign that students and their families "are finding public higher education incredibly valuable in these tough economic times."

SUNY's enrollment of about 440,000 students in fall 2008 reflects growth of almost 20 percent over the past decade, he said.

"SUNY is at a crossroads," Henahan said in an e-mail Thursday. "We are seeing increased demand but experiencing a substantial decrease in funding across the system. New York needs to protect and invest in SUNY for the future of New York."

Karen Brown, director of admissions at the State University College at Oneonta, said 1,109 incoming freshmen have made deposits for a class with a target enrollment of 1,050 students.

Last year, SUNY Oneonta received 12,571 applications from potential freshmen. The academic quality of the incoming class is on track to be as

(*excerpts of selected newsclips*)

strong as last year, Brown said in a media release.

SUNY Oneonta has received more than 2,175 applications from transfer students, which is up from last year at this time, and the college continues to accept applications, officials said.

Combined, SUNY Oneonta received 14,806 admissions applications last year, officials said, and the college anticipates surpassing that mark this year and setting an overall applications record. ...

## TIMES UNION — May 7

### Union elections

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?category=REGION&storyID=797683&BCCode=&newsdate=5/7/2009>

United University Professions represents 35,000 academic and professional faculty on 29 New York state-operated campuses. It recently held elections and the following officers were voted in:

- Phillip H. Smith, appointed president to fill a vacancy in February 2008, was re-elected to his first full two-year term in office. Smith is on leave from Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, where he serves as a professor of cell and developmental biology.

- Eileen Landy, an associate professor of sociology at SUNY College of Old Westbury, was re-elected to a fifth term as UUP's statewide secretary. Edward Quinn, assistant to the chair of the Theatre Arts at SUNY Stony Brook, was re-elected to a fourth term as UUP's Membership Development Officer.

In addition, five members were re-elected to the executive board and three were newly elected.

## CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION — May 1

### Public Colleges Consider Privatization as a Cure for the Common Recession

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i34/34a01601.htm>

As state tax revenues plummet, some lawmakers and higher-education leaders are once again looking at loosening the bonds between state governments and public colleges to save money and give colleges the freedom to bolster their bottom lines in new ways.

Over the past two decades, college officials have often lamented the growing need to secure money outside of appropriations. But the continuing economic crisis has led to a new urgency on the part of some public colleges to shed more of their ties to states, despite the mixed results of previous such efforts.

Operating more like private institutions not only would be a buffer from the recession and the volatility of state budgets, some college officials argue, but also may well be vital to the survival of many public colleges.

Those that seek to thrive in the future must earn money from a variety of sources and continually cut costs in ways that don't harm the quality of instruction, says Philip J. Hanlon, vice provost for academic and budgetary affairs at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which gets just 7 percent, or \$320-million, of its revenue from the state.

While no public college is likely to free itself entirely from fiscal ties to its state, many of the nation's largest public institutions, like Michigan, have evolved to operate nearly like private colleges. Public research universities in Colorado, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Vermont are so reliant on tuition that students are paying, on average, for more than 70 percent of the cost of their education, compared with a national average of 51 percent, according to the Delta Project on Postsecondary Education Costs, Productivity, and Accountability, a nonprofit group that studies how colleges spend their money. Students at private research universities pay, on average, nearly 56 percent of their educational costs, the project reported.

Seeing their share of state funds dwindle after the 2001-2 recession, public universities in Colorado, Massachusetts, and Virginia forged compacts with their governments, gaining operating freedom in exchange for reductions in public aid. Those moves have pushed them toward greater fiscal autonomy.

### Diminishing State Aid

The trend toward privatization has been widely discussed by public-college officials since at least the early 1990s, especially during nationwide recessions when state revenues have plummeted.

Over those two decades, states' spending on health care and prison costs has climbed rapidly. So, even as state support for public higher education has increased in real dollars, it has diminished as a proportion of most state budgets. State aid also has fallen as a share of institutional revenues, surpassed by the growth of other sources of revenue, including tuition, federal research grants, private donations, and income from outside businesses, including medical hospitals, summer camps, even campus parking fees.

Now, with states facing budget shortfalls totaling as much as \$350-billion in the current and coming fiscal years, lawmakers are looking hard for ways to trim spending on higher education. Even the federal stimulus package, which includes nearly \$40-billion to offset cuts to education, has not done much to ease the pressure, which has prompted some lawmakers in Colorado and Michigan to suggest cutting flagship universities loose from state budgets entirely. While those ideas have not gained much traction, they reignited discussions about whether it was desirable, or even possible, for large universities to maintain their public status. ...

### Privatization as a Euphemism

One of the surest signs of de facto privatization in public higher education is the increasing share of educational costs being covered by students through tuition and fees, says Jane V. Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project. A report by the group last year showed that tuition and fees accounted for 60 percent or more of educational costs at public research universities in 14 states, with the highest share — 83 percent — being borne by students at the University of Vermont. ...