

UUPers visit Albany for two advocacy days

UUP's annual round of advocacy days got underway in Albany, kicking off with University Center/HSC/Optomety Day Feb. 14, and the Tech Sector Breakfast the following day.

A delegation of about 40 UUP members, including 19 from Brooklyn HSC, fanned out through the Capitol on University Center/HSC/Optomety Day. They broke up into geographically-based groups, visiting more than three dozen state legislators whose districts include or are near their respective campuses.

They carried the message that SUNY's 29 state-operated campuses need an additional \$153.3 million in state support for 2006-07, including \$25.5 million for new full-time faculty positions to accommodate enrollment growth. The UUPers also urged the rejection of Gov. Pataki's annual proposal to privatize the SUNY hospitals.

"We will do everything in our power to stop it," UUP President William Scheuerman told the UUP advocates in a briefing prior to their legislative visits. He said the proposal would balance the budget on the backs of the poor, and would sharply restrict their access to affordable health care.

During one of their first visits, UUPers heard a prediction from Assemblyman Robert Sweeney that privatization won't be reality. His reasoning? Because Gov. Pataki is leaving office in 2007, this may be the last year for that idea. Lawmakers were generally supportive of additional funds and more full-time faculty.

Nearly two dozen UUPers from SUNY's Tech Sector colleges were on hand for the Tech Sector Breakfast. A parade of state lawmakers showed up to visit with the UUP advocates and pledge their support.

"We can't have more math and science majors if



Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples (center) meets with a UUP delegation in her Albany office during University Center/HSC/Optomety Day. UUPers pictured from left: Fred Floss, UUP VP for Academics; Leah Doherty; Peter Bradford; and Dr. Parsa Kazemi from Buffalo HSC.

Photo by Donald Feldstein

we don't fund their courses at a basic level," said Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito. "We need to put the money where the rhetoric is and turn the money into action."

Senator Catherine Young told the UUPers the Legislature is 100 percent behind them. "We're here to make sure you have (budget) restorations and the full-time faculty that you need," she said.

Approaching deadlines:

Nursing Conferences registrations due soon

UUP and NYSUT will host back-to-back nursing conferences scheduled for March 31 and April 1.

For more information on the UUP conference, contact UUP Secretary Eileen Landy at elandy@uupmail.org, or by telephone at (800) 342-4206. Registration forms are due Feb. 28 and are available on the UUP Web site at www.uupinfo.org.

Registration forms for the NYSUT conference are due March 6. Call (518) 213-6000 for more details.

UUP Journalism Contest entries deadline

The March 1 deadline is fast approaching for chapter newsletter editors to submit their entries for the UUP 2005-2006 Journalism Competition.

Editors needing entry forms should contact Angell Law at (800) 342-4206 or alaw@uupmail.org.

Reminders/upcoming meetings:

February

24—Candidate statements for elective statewide office due to UUP by 5 p.m.

28—NYSUT Higher Ed Lobby Day, Albany

March

2-5—AFT Higher Education Issues Conference, Orlando

7—University College/EOP/EOC Advocacy Day, Albany

10-11—Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown

17-18—Chapter Presidents Retreat, Bolton Landing

20-21—NYSUT Committee of 100, Albany

31—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany

April

21-22—2006 Spring DA, Albany