



# The Connection

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## SUNY board approves positive budget request

To the applause of a delegation of UUP members in attendance, the SUNY Board of Trustees approved its 2006-07 budget request.

The \$5.6 billion proposal calls for an increase of \$221 million in state funding for SUNY's state-operated campuses and hospitals. UUP President Bill Scheuerman was enthusiastic as he witnessed the board's 11-1 vote approving the budget.

"It's about time that SUNY had an aggressive budget that meets the needs of the campuses and allows SUNY to grow rather than stagnate. This budget will keep the doors of the University open to deserving students, especially the thousands of community college graduates and transfer students looking to enroll in four-year programs at SUNY. It will result in more full-time faculty, which will allow students to complete their education on time, and it will provide students with the level of support services they need," he said.

The next step sends SUNY's budget request to Gov. Pataki, who will consider the plan as part of an overall state budget proposal. Scheuerman strongly urged the governor to include "this realistic budget request" in his Executive Budget proposal.



Photo by T. Harrison

UUPers applaud the trustees' 11-1 vote to OK SUNY's \$5.6 billion budget proposal. Among those attending, from left are: VP for Academics Fred Floss, NYSUT Legislative Representative Chris Black, President Bill Scheuerman, Albany retiree Bruce Solnick, Albany Chapter President Candy Merbler, VP for Professionals John Marino, and Oneonta retiree Fred Miller (blocked from view).

## UUP Commission on Part-time Labor to meet

The members of UUP's newly created Commission on Part-time Labor will hold their first meeting at UUP headquarters in Albany Nov. 18-19, for training and to plan strategy.

The commission is a major initiative that comes as part of what UUP President Bill Scheuerman has designated "The Year of the Part-timer." The impetus for the commission came at the Fall Delegate Assembly, when the union's Part-time Concerns Committee introduced the resolution that created it, and charged it with both reporting on conditions of part-time employment at SUNY and recommending reforms.

All elected part-time concerns representatives from UUP chapters have been appointed to the commission. They will submit a report at the upcoming Winter DA that will detail the number of part-time academic and professional faculty at each college; their qualifications and length of service; and the compensation scales, terms of employment and any special conditions at each

college.

A second report, to be submitted to the 2006 Spring DA, will recommend strategies for achieving equitable salaries for part-time academic and professional faculty, and achieving full-time employment for all UUP members who want it.

The commission's upcoming training and strategy session follows a very successful Campus Equity Week observation at a number of SUNY campuses. UUP members turned out in force to distribute CEW literature on campus; to meet with their part-time colleagues at forums and receptions; and to gather signatures on petitions seeking better pay for part-time employees.

## UUP launches lecture series



Boyer

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, UUP kicks off the first in a series of legislative lectures. The topic: "Can We Find the Dollars — and Sense — to Protect New York's Environment." The speaker will be profes-

sor Barry Boyer, a UUP member and a faculty member of the University of Buffalo Law School for more than 30 years. He has also served as dean of the law school and director of the university's Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy. Boyer is a member of the Baldy Center's Working Group on Environmental Stewardship. Among his current research projects is working on an environmental legal history of Western New York.

While New York state has made significant progress in environmental protection in recent years, Boyer will focus on the growing list of unfinished environmental business and how to meet these needs despite tight government budgets.

The program takes place in Albany in Legislative Office Building Room 104B from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is free and a boxed lunch will be served at noon.

The UUP lecture series is being presented with the cooperation of Sen. Kenneth LaValle and Assemblyman Ron Canestrari, chairs of the Senate and Assembly standing committees on higher education.