



The Connection

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UUP legislative lecture series off to a good start

UUP launched the first in a series of legislative lectures on Nov. 16 in Albany. "These lectures showcase SUNY's faculty, spotlighting the expertise SUNY has with respect to public policy," explained Fred Floss, UUP's VP for Academics, in convening the initial session.

The focus was on the environment, as UUP member Barry Boyer, a well-known University of Buffalo law professor and faculty member for 30 years with an emphasis on environmental law, took the podium. He previously served as dean of the university's law school and director of the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy.

Boyer's lecture bore the title "Can We Find the Dollars – and Sense – to Protect New York's Environment." He said while New York has been a leader when it comes to environmental protection, a huge agenda of unfinished environmental business remains. He contended that government can't address that problem alone, pointing out that the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has all it can do just to maintain existing programs. "Not surprisingly in the current public-sector fiscal climate, agency staff and resources have not kept up with these growing demands on government," Boyer said.

The solution, Boyer said, is the formation of public private partnerships. "Environmental partnerships have much promise as a way to help take the next big step in managing our environment."

While some environmental partnerships are already in place, Boyer said more needs to be done.



Photo by Karen L. Mattison

UUPer Barry Boyer, a SUNY Buffalo law professor, delivers UUP's first legislative lecture in Albany, as Fred Floss, UUP VP for Academics, looks on.

He pointed out faculty at SUNY can be a valuable resource in formulating such collaborations. "SUNY has an important role to play since its faculty possesses the expertise that could help foster these types of collaborations." Floss offered UUP as a resource to those who are looking to form such partnerships.

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

Reminders/upcoming meetings:

December

23-January 2—UUP and NYSUT offices closed

January

12-13—UUP Executive Board Retreat, Rye

13-14—NYSUT Higher Ed Council meeting, New York City

16—UUP Administrative Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

19—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany

20-21—2006 Winter Delegate Assembly, Albany

February

7—UUP Legislative Luncheon, LOB, Albany

14—University Center/HSC/Optomtry Advocacy Day, Albany

15—Proposed constitutional amendments due to UUP by 5 p.m.

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

28—NYSUT Higher Education Lobby Day, Albany

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UUP officers and staff!*

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