

Lawmakers support UUP agenda for more full-time faculty

UUP officially presented its 2006 legislative agenda during its annual Legislative Luncheon in Albany, attracting positive comments from a number of state legislators from both major political parties who spoke at the event.

UUP President Bill Scheuerman urged lawmakers to provide an additional \$153.3 million in state funds for SUNY in the 2006-07 state budget.

“SUNY cannot afford to continue the trend of teaching more students with fewer full-time faculty,” Scheuerman said. He pointed out that while SUNY’s student enrollment has risen by 44,000 in the last 12 years, the number of full-time academic faculty has fallen by nearly 1,200. “This chronic underfunding cannot continue without affecting the quality of education offered by SUNY,” he said.

One of the top priorities in UUP’s legislative agenda is to achieve a level of funding so the number of full-time faculty at each campus reaches 70 percent. Scheuerman pointed to figures showing that the number of full-time academic faculty at SUNY’s state-operated campuses in 2004-05 had plunged to 59.8 percent, while the part-time academic faculty reached 40.2 percent

“This university will not be able to accommodate continued enrollment growth, nor will it be able to offer courses to allow many students to graduate within four years without more full-time faculty,” Scheuerman said.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno was the first to speak in support of UUP’s legislative initiative. “For what you do for New York, we’ll be there for you,” he promised. Bruno said the state needs people who can compete in



UUP President Bill Scheuerman welcomes lawmakers and UUP activists to the union’s annual Legislative Luncheon in Albany.

—Photo by Karen L. Mattison

a global economy, and that’s where SUNY and its faculty come in.

Senate Minority Leader and candidate for lieutenant governor David Paterson noted while he teaches part-time at Columbia, SUNY clearly needs more full-time faculty to benefit not only

its students but all New Yorkers. “Our educational system is really the engine of our economy,” he said.

About 60 UUP members from campuses across the state attended and met with dozens of lawmakers from their respective areas.

Reminders/upcoming meetings:

February

- 14—University Center/HSC/Optomety Advocacy Day, Albany
- 15—Proposed constitutional amendments due to the UUP Administrative Office by 5 p.m.
- 15—Technology Sector College breakfast, Albany
- 17—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany
- 20—UUP Administrative Office closed for President’s Day
- 24—Candidate statements for elective statewide office due to UUP by 5 p.m.
- 28—NYSUT Higher Ed Lobby Day, Albany

March

- 1—Deadline for UUP Journalism Contest entries
- 2-5—AFT Higher Education Issues Conference, Orlando
- 7—University College/EOP/EOC Advocacy Day, Albany
- 10-11—UUP Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown
- 17-18—UUP Chapter Presidents Retreat, Bolton Landing
- 20-21—NYSUT Committee of 100, Albany
- 31—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany

Nursing conferences scheduled

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.