

## Delegates take care of business at Fall DA

Close to 350 delegates and observers tackled issues ranging from family leave to part-time concerns to contract negotiations at UUP's Fall Delegate Assembly, which took place Sept. 29-30 in Rochester.

Among the highlights: delegates approved a constitutional amendment permitting a chapter's governing body to appoint a member to a vacant office if there are no nominees and if no one receiving write-in votes wants to serve.

- Delegates passed a series of resolutions to:
- urge UUP to fight for sufficient increases so that HSCs don't require supplemental "Band-Aid" funds from the state, and get the state to acquire a university hospital to support Buffalo HSC's educational requirements;
  - advise each chapter to set up an Affirmative Action Committee;
  - work with the All Unions Committee for Single-payer Health Care HR 676 to support passage of universal single-payer health care;
  - seek campus privileges for retirees, such as



UUPer Bill Borgstede of ESF votes in favor of a resolution during the Fall DA.

—Photo by Karen L. Mattison

oppose any bill that relaxes legal standards for "torture, and cruel, inhumane and degrading" treatment;

- have UUP co-sponsor and back UUPers participating in U.S. Labor Against the War's "National Labor Conference Against the War in Iraq" Dec. 1-3 in Cleveland;
- advocate membership in AFT's Peace and Justice Caucus; and,
- give thanks to William Griffen of Cortland, who just retired as SUNY's longest-serving faculty member, and to James Covey, retiring as UUP stenographer after almost 20 years.

A complete report on the DA will be available in the November issue of *The Voice*.

office space, e-mail and parking;

■ express support for striking members of the Mexican National Education Workers Union, who are locked in a contract fight with the Mexican government;

■ join the League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union protesting legislation legalizing wiretapping without a warrant, and join Amnesty International to

## Members get out the vote for endorsed candidates



UUPer Patrick Romain of SUNY Albany works the phones at NYSUT's Capital District regional office urging fellow union members to get out and vote for endorsed candidates.

—Photo by Karen L. Mattison

With a little more than three weeks left before Election Day, UUP is urging its members to take an active role in working for candidates jointly endorsed by the union and NYSUT, its statewide affiliate.

"Endorsing candidates is the first step; now we must follow up with action," UUP President Bill Scheuerman said.

UUPers are volunteering to perform such tasks as going door to door talking to fellow union members about endorsed candidates, distributing campaign literature and staffing phone banks.

If you would like to help the union's endorsed candidates, please call or visit your chapter office for details on how and when to volunteer.

## Chapter *Ad Hoc* Advisory groups report on issues and concerns

UUP chapters made their voices and their wishes heard in a daylong meeting Oct. 12 for the three negotiations workgroups.

Chapter representatives of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee and members of various statewide committees delivered reports on issues of concern for the upcoming negotiations. Among the most prominent topics: salaries; family leave, maintaining strong health benefits and adding free tuition for members' dependents and spouses.

UUP President William Scheuerman said the forum would help UUP develop "a contract proposal that truly reflects the needs of our membership."

Statewide Vice President for Academics and

Chief Negotiator Frederick Floss told the gathering that the chapter reports of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee are vital in gauging campus needs.

"The idea here today is to get as much information as possible," he said in explaining the five-minute limit for each chapter report.

Members of the Negotiations Team and Committee listened closely, and said afterward that they found the presentations compelling and well-organized.

"It's interesting that the points being made here so closely match what we're hearing on campuses," said J. Philippe Abraham, vice president for professionals at SUNY Albany and a first-time Negotiations Team member. "It's good to see real people behind the issues."

Negotiations Team visits to UUP chapters around the state will continue into November.

## Reminders/Upcoming meetings

### October

- 27—UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany
- 27-28—UUP New Leaders Workshops, Saratoga Springs

### November

- 10-12—Community College Conference, Lake George
- 17-19—AFT Special Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 23-24—UUP Office Closed for Thanksgiving

(*excerpts of selected newsclips*)

Oct. 9

**THE BUFFALO NEWS** — **Urgently seeking to transform health care**

A mega-plan to restructure the region's health care would establish a university medical center linked to Kaleida Health on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and close at least three major hospitals, according to people familiar with the proposal.

The proposal stems from the creation last year of a state commission to reform New York's increasingly costly health care system and close unneeded hospitals.

A regional advisory committee has been working privately for months on recommendations that the commission is expected to consider in the coming weeks. The group used the opportunity to reshape the area's hospital industry almost as if taking out a clean sheet of paper and starting from scratch.

The proposal could change or never get off the ground. It is a nonbinding set of suggestions to the commission, and some hospital officials expect that targeted facilities, labor unions and medical staffs will seek changes.

Unlike most medical schools, the University at Buffalo does not own its own hospital. Instead, doctor training is spread among several private and public facilities. This is an arrangement school officials have wanted to change to gain greater control over the quality of the teaching program.

Oct. 8

**TIMES UNION** — **Secret funds, ulterior benefits**

Taxpayers are footing the bill for election-year publicity for several Republican senators, who secretly steered state funds to a former top Senate aide to buy slick magazines featuring each lawmaker's picture, a *Times Union* investigation has found.

At least 13 GOP incumbents in the Senate are directing tens of thousands of dollars to the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities to print special publications with their faces and messages on the cover, including batches produced for some of them this election year.

The money comes from two shadowy funds embedded in the state budget that individual lawmakers can earmark for special projects. The accounts are "GLOP," which a Pataki administration official says stands for General Legislative Operations Programs, and member items, the Legislature's notorious pork barrel account.

The commission, called CICU, uses the money to make a guide to private colleges and distributes it in the sponsoring senator's district. Copies are sent to high schools, community colleges and libraries.

CICU, which represents 109 private New York colleges, is led by former Senate Finance Committee Secretary Abraham Lackman, Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno's top fiscal adviser for eight years and a 22-year veteran of the Senate finance unit.

As the Senate's former chief fiscal officer, Lackman once administered the GLOP account

from which senators are drawing down funds for the brochure program. This year, the GLOP account, commonly referred to as "bullet aid," and member items represent \$259.5 million in discretionary money that some critics call slush funds.

If not used on the brochures and other promotional materials, the money could go to any number of school districts or not-for-profit organizations for community projects.

"It's pretty blatant and seems patently wrong that taxpayer money should be used to promote individual members," said Ross Eisenbrey, policy director for the Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan Washington, D.C., think tank that does research on educational policy.

"Why should the taxpayers be paying for this at all? These are private institutions; they can afford to pay for it themselves."

Oct. 6

**THE CHIEF** — **UUP head calls on SUNY to add faculty**

The dramatic increase in enrollment for SUNY schools indicates the need for additional full-time professors, according to the president of the union representing SUNY faculty and staff.

For the 2006-07 school year, the number of freshmen is up 3%, with a 2.4% increase in total enrollment. Overall, SUNY schools have added 56,000 students in the past decade, while trimming 1,000 full-time faculty in the state-operated campuses.

"SUNY's enrollment growth means more full-time faculty are needed to be certain that there are enough to serve this growing student population and maintain quality programs," UUP President William Scheuerman said in a Sept. 26 statement. "The Legislature did the right thing in overriding the Governor's veto and adding 380 more full-time faculty positions in its current budget. While this is a big step in the right direction, SUNY needs to hire additional full-time faculty just to keep up."

He asserted that with 80% of SUNY graduates going on to work in-state, more faculty would be necessary to continue assuring a more-educated work force.

Oct. 6

**INSIDE MEMBER** — **Part Timers Say No to Union**

The Community College of Vermont is quite proudly an anomaly in its approach to faculty hiring: It is rare among institutions in maintaining a faculty made up entirely of part-time instructors, who are arrayed on 12 centers and teach online in the sprawling and sparsely populated state. For that and other reasons, the Vermont institution was a coveted target in the burgeoning movement to unionize part-time instructors, and the American Federation of Teachers waged a two-year campaign to win over the CCV faculty.

The Vermont institution is now exceptional in another way, too: Its part-time faculty members broke with recent trends in rejecting unionization this week. Wednesday, the Vermont Labor Relations

Board reported that the two-year college's faculty members had voted by a margin of 260 to 144 not to unionize. A total of 87% of those eligible to vote did so, a result that President Timothy Donovan said was almost as important to him as the fact that the union was rejected. "I'm pleased not only that they have made the choice they have made, but that they've made such a clear choice," Donovan said.

AFT officials question just how much choice part-timers at the Community College of Vermont really had.

William Scheuerman, a vice president of the national union, said college officials had engaged in a "union busting campaign that is probably the nastiest one we've ever seen," and that instructors, at one on one, "captive audience" meetings with their supervisors, "were told, 'If you join a union, you may lose your job,' and in some cases, we think, were told, 'You will lose your job.'"

AFT officials had expressed optimism about the Vermont vote, and they expressed anger and disappointment in the wake of the vote. "They think they're going to scare us away with their fear campaign, but they're not," said Scheuerman.

Sept. 27

**Democrat and Chronicle** — **SUNY enrollment soars**  
*Concurrent drop in supply of professors strains system*

Enrollment at SUNY has increased more than 15% since fall 1996 and 2.4% since last year, to 424,113, according to preliminary numbers released Tuesday by the 64-campus system.

"This is something that I hope you're all proud of. ... It's good news for the state of New York. It's good news for our students," Chancellor John Ryan told SUNY's board of trustees.

But UUP President William Scheuerman said the 2.4% increase since last year "dramatically illustrates the pressing need for more full-time faculty." He noted that SUNY has lost 1,000 full-time professors at its four-year schools and gained 56,000 students in the past decade. The use of part-time adjunct professors has increased.

This year's state budget includes money for about 375 more full-time professors, which is a start, Scheuerman said. SUNY should press for more funding in the next state budget, he said.

This year's spending plan includes about \$34 million for about 370 new full-time professors and 19 part-time adjuncts, according to SUNY.

"The current state budget funding only begins to close the gap, but with rising enrollment that gap will only get wider," Scheuerman said in a statement.

SUNY is still behind the "eight ball," said Denyce Duncan Lacy of UUP, which represents 32,000 academic and professional faculty. Welcoming more students to SUNY is positive, but classes are still full on campuses, she said.

"We don't want people to overreact and think, 'Oh yeah, that solved the problem,'" she said. "It hasn't."