



United University Professions
2017-18 Budget & Legislative Agenda

Support SUNY Hospitals and Health Sciences Centers

✓ Restore SUNY State Hospital Subsidies

- Restore the state-run hospitals' annual subsidy to \$153 million to ensure the quality health care and affordable medical education they provide.
- The subsidy was \$153 million in 2001. Over the years, it has been cut by roughly half; next year's proposed cut drops it to \$69 million, a \$19 million reduction from last year.
- The subsidy is crucial for the hospitals to continue providing vital health care services and to subsidize/support their state-run medical colleges.

- The hospitals' ability to subsidize their medical colleges (about \$200 million annually) would be jeopardized.
- SUNY's teaching hospitals are the only state-owned/operated facilities required to cover debt payments and fringe benefits costs; the hospitals have paid them since 2002.

✓ Authorize a New Hospital Bonding Program

- Enact a new \$600 million capital program, which would provide \$200 million for capital rehabilitation projects at its three teaching hospitals.
- SUNY's hospitals are in dire need of capital funding for crucial maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

✓ Preserve SUNY Hospital DSH Funding

- Enact legislation so SUNY's three teaching hospitals receive full federal and matching state Disproportionate Share Program (DSH) entitlements without delay.
- The state has restrained and delayed DSH funding—a crucial federal Medicaid supplement matched by state Medicaid funds to help hospitals with the extreme cost of serving the underinsured and uninsured.
- The state has placed limits on Medicaid appropriations it will use to match available federal DSH funding.
- A federal DSH funding reduction, combined with the loss of matching state Medicaid funds, poses a highly unacceptable risk to hospital financial solvency and, ultimately, to the patients the state is obligated to care for in these state-operated health care facilities.

✓ Reinstate State Payment of Hospital Employee Fringe Benefits and Debt Service

- Require the state to cover current and future hospital debt payments, and hospital fringe benefit costs—including \$64 million in annual Social Security payments starting in 2017-18.
- Without this support, the hospitals' ability to deal with ever-changing patient care requirements and health emergencies—such as the repeal of the Affordable Care Act—is at risk.



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Renewed Investment in SUNY's State-Operated Campuses

✓ Restore SUNY Operating Aid

- UUP urges the Legislature to add \$50 million to SUNY's 2017-18 operating budget—part of a five-year, \$250 million program that would replace half of the massive state funding cuts to campuses during the Great Recession.
- SUNY has been hit harder and more often with cuts than any other state agency.
- Annual state operating aid for SUNY's state-operated campuses was slashed from \$1.36 billion in 2008 to \$676 million today.
- That \$684 million cut is more than twice the combined state aid in 2008 for SUNY's 13 comprehensive and eight technology campuses.

✓ Address SUNY's Crucial Shortage of Full-Time Faculty

- UUP urges the Legislature to invest \$30 million in SUNY's operating budget for the first of a five-year commitment to add 1,500 full-time faculty.
- The success of current and future SUNY students depends on reversing a chronic shortage of full-time faculty positions.
- Twenty years ago, SUNY employed 10,300 full-time faculty to instruct 185,000 students. Today, there are 8,700 faculty to teach 220,000 students.
- SUNY's enrollment has increased by 35,000—but no additional state funding has been provided to cope with the growth.
- SUNY needs 12,200 full-time faculty positions to maintain past faculty-student ratios and to accommodate its enrollment growth.

- Massive state aid cuts have reduced SUNY's full-time faculty to just 8,700—far short of the need.
- Continuous expansion of the number of adjuncts paid terribly low salaries must end and pathways be established for transition by adjuncts to full-time status.

✓ Pass Legislation to Increase Accountability and Transparency of SUNY's Research Foundation and Campus Foundations

- UUP urges the Legislature to enact legislation requiring oversight of transactions by SUNY's research and campus-based foundations and corporations.
- SUNY leadership and external parties would oversee the entities.
- The foundations (which include campus auxiliary corporations and related organizations) receive and spend millions of dollars annually—often unrestricted and without external oversight.
- The bill would require foundations/corporations to submit annual budgets for comment and approval by campus and SUNY system administration. The documents would contain financial statements, vendor information, employee salaries and other data.
- A new System Administration compliance unit would be established to ensure that foundation expenditures/transactions mesh with SUNY's public mission.



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Renewed Investment in SUNY's State-Operated Campuses: EOP/EOCs

✓ Fund SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

- Restore a \$5 million 2017-18 Executive Budget reduction to this program and add resources for the program's growth.
- In 2016, there were tens of thousands of EOP applicants for fewer than 3,000 slots.

✓ Fund SUNY's Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs)

- UUP urges the Legislature to support an increase in state aid to defray the additional cost of operating the centers.
- Restore a \$5.3 million reduction to the EOCs and a \$2 million cut to the Attain Labs in the 2017-18 Executive Budget and add resources for the program's growth.
- SUNY's EOCs provide more than 16,000 students with vocational training.

✓ Create a School-to-Career Pipeline to Recruit Teachers

- This pilot opportunity program would recruit and educate future teachers from our under-resourced, high-needs, underrepresented and economically disadvantaged communities throughout New York state.
- There is a longtime, driving need to increase diversity in New York's elementary and secondary teaching ranks.
- There is a looming teacher shortage in New York state. From 2009-2014—the most recent available data—the number of students entering teacher education programs was down 46.5 percent.

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