



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

I'm very pleased to see that a record number of UUP members at SUNY Downstate ran for UUP chapter officers this year. The results are in and I'd like to welcome all of our newly-elected Governing Board members and delegates. I look forward to working with all of you.

UUP election procedures require that we publish these results; it was posted on the UUP bulletin boards throughout the campus. You may access the UUP Downstate chapter election results from the following link:

<http://uupinfo.org/elections/results/chapter/Downstate/Downstate2013.pdf>

Elections are held every two years, and all UUP members are eligible to run for office and to vote. Elections are conducted by the statewide UUP Elections & Credentials Committee. The term of office for each elected position is from June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2015.

I'd also like to take this time to thank our departing VP for Academics, Virginia Anderson, and our Secretary, Mary Doherty, both of whom opted not to run for another term. They served in their positions for several years and will be missed. They both will continue their service to UUP as Governing Board members and delegates.

A heartfelt welcome to our newly-elected VP for Academics, Dr. Karen Benker, and our newly-appointed Secretary, Ellen McTigue.

No one person received the majority vote for the positions of chapter secretary, chapter treasurer, or chapter contingent officer. In compliance with our chapter bylaws and letters declining participation in the upcoming run-off election, Ellen McTigue has been appointed as Chapter Secretary. However, run-off elections will take place for the other two officer positions—unless there are additional letters declining participation in the upcoming run-off elections. Run-off ballots will be mailed on April 26, 2013 and they will be due back to Albany on May 22, 2013. The run-off elections will be conducted by the statewide Elections & Credentials Committee in Albany.

The Continued Fight to Save SUNY Downstate

Now more than ever, we need your help to keep SUNY Downstate Medical Center a state-run public hospital.

The lack of state funding and a mandated "sustainability plan" for SUNY Downstate in the

state's 2013-14 budget have increased the chances for privatization and the elimination of clinical services.

In response, we've scheduled a May 9 church service and rally to save health care services at SUNY Downstate. The event is being sponsored by UUP's Downstate Chapter and the Downstate Coalition of Faith, Labor and Community Leaders.

The church service will be held at 4:15 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Church of God, at 203 E. 37th St. (between Church Avenue and Linden Boulevard). Once church ends, we will march down Lenox Avenue to SUNY Downstate's 470 Clarkson Ave. entrance, where the rally will take place.

The rally will start at 5 p.m. The theme of the event is "Saving Vital Health Care Services for Our Community."

Please attend the church service and participate in the march and rally on May 9. We need a big show of support to drive home the message that Brooklyn needs SUNY Downstate!

Apparently, the state doesn't think so.

There is no additional state funding for SUNY Downstate in the 2013-14 budget. And although language was removed, that would have allowed the hospital to be run by a private corporation, the possibility of privatization still exists.

By June 1, SUNY Downstate must submit a sustainability plan to the governor and legislature that must include recommendations to restructure SUNY Downstate. The plan mandates the reduction or elimination of acute, ambulatory and support services to achieve financial stability.

The plan is set to take effect June 15. Also, new wording in Article 7 of the state budget allows SUNY Downstate to contract out for clinical services; up to 20 percent of those services can be outsourced with state Department of Health approval.

Further, SUNY can partner its state-run hospitals with for-profit corporations as lessor or lessee, or as joint operating agreement participants.

President's Corner (cont'd)

Fortunately, state law allows for public comment on those types of management contracts. The SUNY Chancellor must show that the hospital's financial situation necessitates approval of a private corporation contract; the Commissioner of Health and the Director of the Budget must also sign off on the plan.

Since we have no idea what SUNY Downstate's sustainability plan will include, we must remain vigilant and continue to speak out against all attempts to privatize SUNY Downstate. Our jobs and the health care of thousands of Brooklynites are at stake.

Labor-Management Meeting

According to the agreement between UUP and the State of New York, Article 8.4 allows us to meet with the campus president and senior level staff to discuss issues that are important to the UUP bargaining unit membership. The last meeting with management took place on March 22, 2013, when we raised issues that were important to the membership. We will apprise you of the meeting at the next scheduled membership meeting.

UUP CHAPTER MEETING

Agenda

1. Latest developments in the State Budget Crisis
2. Labor Management Meeting Report
3. Contract Negotiations

DATE: Monday, April 29, 2013

TIME: 12 – 12:50 p.m.

**PLACE: Lecture Hall I
Basic Sciences Bldg.**

(Sandwiches only will be provided after the meeting)

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Officers

President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud

Academic VP: Virginia Anderson
Professional VP: Edison Bond, Jr.
Secretary: Mary Doherty
Treasurer: Fred Houston
Grievance Chair: Simon Abe Gerecht
Part-time Concerns Rep: Ellen McTigue
Dept. Rep. Coordinator:
Rowena Blackman-Stroud

UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist
Lisa Mouscardy Willis

Negotiations Update

President Phil Smith informed UUP members of the following:

“Please be advised: Because New York State has not yet provided UUP with the necessary information concerning two critical aspects of our Tentative Agreement (e.g. details on the Deficit Reduction Leave Program and the plan for retroactive payments on Health Insurance Premiums), we will not be able to print and distribute the Negotiations Bulletin as quickly as we had originally anticipated.

The Negotiations Bulletin will contain the exact language of the Tentative Contract—with annotated areas that explain new features of the agreement. Plus, the Bulletin also will contain an extensive Question and Answer section. We want to have this vital document in members' hands prior to the mailing of the Ratification Ballots. Therefore, because of the state's delay, we've decided to postpone the timeline of the Ratification Ballot.

The voting for Ratification will be handled by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) according to the following schedule:

--Ballots will be mailed on May 1st,

--Completed ballots will be due back at the AAA offices by close of business (5PM) on June 3rd.

--Ballots will be counted on June 4th.

We regret this delay, but due to circumstances not under our control this postponement is necessary to provide complete information to our members.”

**SAVE VITAL
HEALTH CARE
SERVICES FOR
OUR COMMUNITY!**



**Join Us for a Church Service, March and Rally
to save SUNY Downstate Medical Center**

**When: Thursday, May 9
4:15 p.m.**

**Where: Mt. Zion Church of God
203 E. 37th St., Brooklyn
(between Church and Linden Blvd.)**

After the church service, join us for a
March to SUNY Downstate Medical Center,
470 Clarkson Ave., and a
5 p.m. Rally
to Save Vital Health Care Services
in Central Brooklyn

Sponsored by the
Downstate Coalition of Faith, Labor and Community Leaders