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United University Professions
ESF Chapter

February 18, 2010

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor and President
Syracuse University
Administration Building
Syracuse, NY 13244-5040

Dear Chancellor Cantor,

I write this letter to you on behalf of the 297 academic and professional staff members of United University Professions - SUNY-ESF chapter. The recently published report on Sustainable Benefits contains a recommendation to eliminate Dependent Tuition benefits to the employees of SUNY-ESF and members of my bargaining unit. To quote the report:

“Phase out dependent tuition benefits for SUNY-ESF employees, while grandfathering those dependents enrolled by 2010”. The rationale provided is that ESF employees do not directly contribute to the SU benefit pool. Directly contribute; perhaps not. Do ESF employees contribute to SU? We most certainly do and many of our contributions are cash and go directly to the SU bottom line. That does contribute to the benefit pool. Furthermore, if the Working Group had consulted us on this issue, I am confident that ESF employees would be very willing to accept the sliding scale for this benefit that has been recommended for SU employees. No one ever asked us. You never invited us to participate. Yet this decision will impact many of my members who have children.

The members of UUP-SUNY chapter endorse the proposal that Dr. Neil Murphy has submitted to you via Provost Eric Spina. That proposal calls for ESF employees to contribute on a sliding income scale and at rates that are higher than their SU counterparts. Additionally, Dr. Murphy has proposed a plan that would allow SU employees to be eligible for ESF dependent tuition should their child apply to ESF, be admitted and enroll. This plan clearly demonstrates our willingness to contribute.

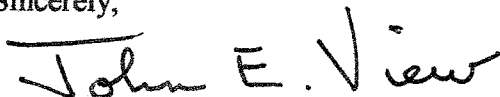
I am aware of the existence of a memo (circa 1982) sent to ESF by SU administration. This memo reaffirms the existence of the Dependent Tuition Program for SU and ESF employees and outlines to ESF how the benefit will work, procedures, etc. This document is currently under

review by ESF-UUP, our statewide organization UUP and New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). It is our strong desire and intent to resolve this issue by working together and adopting Dr. Murphy's proposal.

Attached to this letter is an extensive list of ESF contributions to SU. Please review them. Reflect on the impact and decide for yourself the merits on our vast contributions. From my perspective the value of ESF contributions to SU, direct and indirect exceed \$10 million dollars. If implemented, this recommendation may have severe unintended consequences between what has been up to now a shining example of Public-Private cooperation in the annals of higher education.

Your memo of introduction to this report refers to values and inclusion. What values do we, the ESF employees who for 99 years have worked closely with SU, take away from this recommendation? Clearly, this report and this recommendation allude to a vision that ESF employees are to be included in your definition of Community. My two children are SU alums due to this benefit. I am also a SU alum and used remitted tuition to receive my MBA from the Whitman School of Management. When you/SU called on me last year to donate to "Keep'em at 'Cuse"; I did. No one asked where I worked and it made no difference that my money was "ESF" money. I gave because I believe in our responsibility as educators to provide access for all to the knowledge we provide. I believe in their dreams and I know you do too. To that end, I respectfully request that you include ESF employees in the sliding scale option that you are providing SU employees. We are willing to contribute into that benefit pool.

Sincerely,



John E. View, President
United University Professions – SUNY-ESF Chapter
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Syracuse, NY 13202-2240

cc: John Chapple, Chair Syracuse University Board of Trustees
Eric Spina, Provost, Syracuse University
Phillip Smith, President United University Professions



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Appendix A

Contributions By and From ESF to SU – Direct and Indirect

- ESF parents of Dependent Tuition students pay over \$600,000 in room, board, books, and other items to SU. You will eliminate this revenue source by eliminating the benefit.
- Many ESF faculty and staff are contributing alumni to SU, as well as spouses and dependent children who are now working adults because of their SU degree. All contribute back to SU. Elimination of this benefit may create a backlash and reduce contributions to SU.
- ESF contributes millions to SU via Accessory Instruction.
- ESF pays over a million of student fees to SU for services such as Student Health, Library, etc.
- SU owns and operates all concession machines on the ESF campus; to my knowledge this is a No Bid contract and all cash proceeds go to SU.
- SU operates the ESF Food Service facility in Marshall Hall. This too is a No Bid contract and all cash proceeds go to SU.
- ESF students have provided SU with millions of dollars for room and board over several decades. This year our first-year students alone have paid over \$4.5 million in these charges. If you add in our upper class students' bookstore charges, etc., the number rapidly approaches \$6 million. Note: ESF has provided the financial aid for these students – SU has not had to lay out a penny to enroll them.
- ESF faculty and staff routinely open up their classrooms, labs, research tools, etc to our colleagues at SU and SU students. Example - Our Roosevelt Wildlife Collection and its curator Ron Giergerich is always assisting SU faculty, students and Staff.
- ESF is providing classroom space, heat/lights at no charge to SU for SU faculty members to teach 28 classes on our campus this year
- ESF staff work and give freely of their time to assist your Athletic Department in recruiting efforts. Designing Inter-disciplinary programs that will allow the student to receive a degree from SU, play D-I sports and take courses that ESF teaches and SU does not.
- ESF contributes to SU by allowing for parking rights on our campus for all Dome events
- ESF contributes to SU by our University Police service for Dome events
- A portion of the Carrier Dome sits on ESF property and may not have been built if ESF did not agree to provide this valuable land to SU.