



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rowena Blackman-Stroud

UUP's Legislative Success

For years, UUP has been fighting for a genuine maintenance of effort (MOE) to require the state to cover mandatory, unavoidable costs of SUNY and the University's state-run public teaching hospitals.

The initiative was necessary, UUP argued, to protect funding for student services and ensure a financially secure public higher education system in New York.

Lawmakers listened. Then they took action.

The final hours of the legislative session in June resulted in the passage of three key pieces of legislation for UUP: the Maintenance of Effort Bill (S-281A LaValle/A-5370A Glick); a bill that requires the Governor to provide a 5-year capital plan for SUNY (S-5217 LaValle/A-7388 Glick); and a bill that will prohibit the state from sweeping outstanding SUNY hospital account receivables, such as tuition, fees, and hospital charges into the general fund (S-4404B DeFrancisco/A-7252B Magnarelli).

Getting the legislature to pass this legislation is a huge victory.

The state Legislature approved a bill requiring the state to pay for "all mandatory costs" for CUNY and SUNY, including union-negotiated salary and benefit increases for employees—a key point made by dozens of UUPers in hundreds of visits to legislators in Albany in the winter and spring.

The MOE bill includes—but is not limited to—the reimbursement of past due uncollected tuition, fees and hospital charges to SUNY; this could return as much as \$2 million to \$3 million annually to the hospitals. Utility and building rental costs and "other inflationary expenses" are also covered under the legislation.

Even though the Legislature has approved the MOE bill, it won't become part of state Education Law until the governor signs it. He is still reviewing the measure.

Still, this is very good news for UUP members, SUNY students and the University. Since 2008, CUNY and SUNY have lost \$1.5 billion in state funding. These cuts—which campuses and the hospitals have had to absorb—have threatened the quality of public higher education in New York. Students, through annual tuition increases, are paying more than 60 percent of SUNY's mandatory costs.

The state committed to an incremental tuition plan in 2011; the agreement allowed for yearly tuition increases at CUNY and SUNY for five years. As part of the deal, lawmakers promised not to cut general operating funding, which would allow tuition revenue to be spent on additional programs and staff.

But the state has refused to pay for negotiated raises and benefits, utility expenses and building rental costs, which cost SUNY \$131.4 million this year. This time around, legislators separated the maintenance of effort piece from the tuition plan. The new bill will make the MOE permanent.

There are some drawbacks, however. The bill only requires the state to provide the same level of funding and fringe benefits of the prior state fiscal year. This falls far short of ensuring that the state pays its fair share in funding SUNY and CUNY. Without public funding for unavoidable mandatory costs, it's inevitable that funds from tuition hikes will be used to fill financial gaps in campus budgets.

It took hard work and determination from hundreds of UUP members from across the state to make this bill a reality. **We at UUP are hopeful that the governor will recognize the positives of this bill and sign it into law....stay tuned.**

Negotiations Update

Our current contract with the State of New York expires on July 1, 2016. Preparations with the upcoming negotiations process begin this summer.

UUP President, Fred Kowal, recently announced the selection of UUP's Chief Negotiator for our upcoming contract negotiations with the State of New York.

UUP's Vice President for Professionals, Philippe Abraham, has agreed to serve in this important role.

Our colleague, Paula White, Downstate chapter VP for Professional, will be serving on the UUP Negotiations Team.

The Negotiations Team is tentatively scheduled to visit our chapter on Monday, August 24th. All chapter members are encouraged to attend this important meeting as it is **YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK UP** regarding the next contract with the State of New York.

Please check the UUP bulletin boards to confirm the date and location.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

DATE	WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS	LOCATION
Monday, July 20, 2015	<u>Chapter Membership Meeting</u> Noon – 1 p.m. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED	Education Building Auditorium
Wednesday, July 29, 2015	<u>Retirement Workshop</u> Noon – 2 p.m. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED	Education Building Lecture Hall 1A
TENTATIVE Monday, August 24, 2015	<u>Negotiations Team Visit</u> Noon – 1 p.m. 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED	Education Building Auditorium Please check the UUP bulletin boards to confirm date/location
TENTATIVE Tuesday, August 25, 2015	<u>Negotiations Team Visit</u> 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED	Sodexo Court Please check the UUP bulletin boards to confirm date/location

UUP Chapter at Downstate

Office	Box	Phone
Rm. BSB 2-71P	96	Ext. 1519

Fax: 718/774-0800

Officers

President: Rowena Blackman-Stroud

Academic VP: Karen Benker
Professional VP: Paula White
Secretary: Ellen McTigue
Treasurer: Fred Houston
Grievance Chair: Simon Abe Gerecht
Officer for Contingents: Donovan Lorde
Dept. Rep. Coordinator:
Rowena Blackman-Stroud

**UUP/NYSUT Labor Relations
Specialist**
Lisa Mouscardy Willis

5 Things You Need to Know About DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program)

By Karen Benker, Chapter VP for Academics

1. **DSRIP is a federal program to lower Medicaid costs.** It gives financial incentives to states to reduce the numbers of hospitalizations and visits to emergency departments. The strategy for the change is to form new entities called Performing Provider Systems (PPSs), also known as accountable care organizations (ACOs).
2. The federal government will switch from reimbursing PPSs from to Fee-for-Service payment to Pay for Performance. In other words, instead of relying on income from each procedure or service to patients, **a hospital will eventually rely on sharing in the money saved by the PPS by keeping patients out of the hospital and out of the emergency room.**
3. **Downstate has joined the PPS led by the NYC Health & Hospital Corporation—One City Health.** It seems that Downstate's main role will be education rather than clinical care. At a prior SUNY Board of Trustees meeting, the DMC administration reported that UHB will become a "medical village" – a collection of ambulatory care services. Downstate has submitted a request for funding to alter the UHB plant, but that request remains secret. It is not clear how many, if any, inpatient services will remain.
4. The federal government is also changing Medicare to the ACO model. **The changes in Medicaid and Medicare, as well as the rapid change in medical technology, are rapidly shrinking the number of hospital beds needed in Brooklyn and throughout the country.**
5. Downstate administration has already cut 400 UUP positions. As the hospital transitions from inpatient care to outpatient care, UUP continues to appeal for the administration's business plan. **The changes under DSRIP will inevitably result in the need for new types of health care professionals – especially care coordinators, medical informatics specialists, health coaches, and nurse practitioners.**

UUP is fighting hard to see that our members at risk receive funds for re-training. In the meantime, we need YOU to tell us what is happening in your department!

2015 CONTRACT FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The Deficit Reduction Program has ended and that has resulted in a bump upward in our members' pay.

UUP bargaining unit members who were on payroll June 30, 2015 will receive a 2% salary increase on July 1 (calendar year and college year employees) or September 1 (academic year employees). This increase will appear in the July 29, 2015 payroll check.

An additional \$500 will be added to base salary of incumbents as of June 30, 2015 (pro-rated for part time employees) through the Chancellor's Power of SUNY Award, to be paid no later than December 31, 2015. At this time we do not know the exact date this payment will be made. It will be retroactive to July 1, 2015 or September 1, 2015, depending on the employee's professional obligation and whether they are active on the payroll at the time of payment. Employees who worked at least one semester during the 12-month period commencing July 1, 2014 and whose employment expires prior to July 1, 2015 shall be eligible for the payment if they are re-employed and active on the payroll on the effective date of payment.

COMMUNICATION DURING NEGOTIATIONS

It is especially vital that we have personal email addresses as we begin the process of contract negotiations preparation. It's imperative that UUP have the capability to reach our members to provide them with information that cannot or should not be disseminated to their SUNY e-mail addresses. Therefore, what we need is our members' non-edu e-mail addresses.

If you currently do not receive emails from the chapter via your personal email address, please submit your personal information (name, email, department) to rblackma@uupmail.org.

As promised, UUP will not share your e-mail address as we will only use it to provide you with up to the minute information that cannot be distributed through the SUNY system.