Governor Budget Cuts CUNY, SUNY and TAP
continued from page 1

Assistance Program (TAP) and would also eliminate TAP for graduate students.

The Governor’s plan was challenged by the SUNY and CUNY unions. United University Professions (UUP) President Phil Smith said that “SUNY is already suffering under the enormous weight of the previous budget cuts, with larger class sizes and fewer course offerings, robbing more and more students of the ability to graduate on schedule. Any new reductions could delay the next generation of New Yorkers the opportunity to learn the skills they need to support themselves and to become the employees New York needs to attract new business.”

The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) of CUNY released a statement in which it stated that “The PSC recognizes the difficult economic conditions the state government faces. However, especially in a time of recession, public higher education is the smartest course and surest route to a secure future for New Yorkers and the state as a whole.

Therefore, instead of the Governor’s misguided “rational tuition” policy that would shift the burden of funding public higher education onto our students, who can least afford it, the union suggests New York State adopt a “rational investment” plan of steady, escalating investment to help public higher education recover from years of underfunding, rebuild New York’s economy and pave the road to a secure future for our state.”

The Governor’s proposed budget for 2010-11 would cut $63.6 million in cuts to CUNY’s 11 senior (four-year) colleges, a further $20.8 million in savings on personnel costs and $285 per full-time-equivalent student from CUNY’s six community colleges. Those same colleges are facing enrollment increases of 28% this winter.

As part of the Governor’s plan to eliminate a more than $7 billion deficit, $50 million in cuts is proposed for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

From the NYS AAUP
President’s Desk: continued from page 1

establishing the norms of the academy. Much of what we take for granted would not be we it not for the prominent role played by the AAUP. What recent history tells us is that unless the AAUP is able to continue in its historically important role, the academy will be a much less welcoming environment for faculty and a much poorer environment for students. Just as we work to educate our students for their lives beyond the academy, we must work to educate our colleagues for their lives in the academy.

During the semester as president I have seen the organization give much greater attention to the fastest growing portion of the faculty - the contingent faculty. I have also seen greater attention paid to the next generation of faculty - graduate students. This is a good thing. I had not heard of the AAUP until I was already a faculty member. Adelphi has a strong AAUP tradition, and it was within the framework of that tradition that I was nurtured. My AAUP experiences are ones that I treasure, and, although I am now stepping down as president of the Conference, I hope to continue my active involvement with the organization.

Therefore, I am required to step down from the presidency. I also welcome this opportunity to do so. It is important that the leadership of an organization such as the New York Conference change periodically. This applies not only to the positions of president, but to all our elective positions. It applies not only at the Conference level but also at the chapter level.

And the New York State Conference of the AAUP is able to continue in its historically important role, for granted would not be were it not for the prominent role played by the AAUP. What recent history tells us is that unless the AAUP is able to continue in its historically important role, the academy will be a much less welcoming environment for faculty and a much poorer environment for students. Just as we work to educate our students for their lives beyond the academy, we must work to educate our colleagues for their lives in the academy.

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The AAUP Launches New Online Journal

The American Association of University Professors announces the publication of a new online journal—The AAUP Journal of Academic Freedom.The new journal devoted entirely to the subject of academic freedom. AAUP president Cary Nelson is the editor. It is available free of charge at http://www.academicfreedomjournal.org/index.html.

Some of the essays in the inaugural issue include:

- “The Last Indian Standing,” about a decade-long and continuing assault on Native American faculty. “Basically,” remarked one Native American faculty member who would say no more, “they killed us all.”
- “Hidden (and not so Hidden) Threats to Faculty Governance,” about a new online toolkit program of politically correct indoctrination: “This so-called ‘educational’ program was a flagrant violation of students’ rights.”
- “The Australian ‘American Dream, and the Cold War,’” a compelling account of a McCarthy-era persecution of a progressive faculty member: “To suspend a member with a history of not only unfair but a serious breach of the academic freedom which we both believe.”
- “Ward Churchill at the Dalton Hearing,” and Ward Churchill’s independent analysis of the Ward Churchill case: “It is only by construing academic freedom in the very narrowest sense that they can conclude academic freedom is not violated.”
- “Paranoia and Professionalization,” in which a graduate student explains why students are so afraid of speaking out to their “official duties.”

The report provides an analysis of these decisions and their implications for academic freedom, and recommends a number of action steps, including adoption of specific policy language designed to ensure the continued protection of academic freedom and shared governance.

The report is available for free on the Web. Materials include an action plan, supporting the cause of free speech at public colleges and universities.

Contributors to the toolkit include:

- Tom Clayton, Regents Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Minnesota
- Helen Norton, associate professor of law, University of Colorado School of Law
- Michael A. Olivas, professor of law, University of Houston, and two-term AAUP general counsel
- Ellen Schrecker, professor of history, Yeshiva University, New York

The subcommittee began its work on this report in November 2008 with the goal of proposing policy language and other solutions to protect faculty speech at public colleges and universities beyond what courts could offer. The subcommittee is chaired by Professor Robert M. O’Neil, founding director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Among the report’s recommended action steps for faculty groups and others are to:

- Incorporate protective language into collective bargaining agreements for inclusion of more members in the nomination and election of our leadership.
- Remind public university governing boards, senior administrators, and legal counsel about the risks of limiting academic freedom.
- Monitor emerging cases and other activity on campuses and notify the AAUP and other national faculty, higher education, and free speech groups about developments.
- File amicus briefs in support of faculty members challenging gagging speech at public colleges and universities.
- Publicize the issue in campus-based media and local news outlets, including by highlighting faculty contributions to the public good.
- Hold national and regional governance workshops and activities to increase faculty awareness of the issue.
- Conduct a national analysis of handbook language on academic freedom.

The AAUP intends to continue “Speak Up, Speak Out: Protect the Faculty Voice” into 2010, and additional materials will be added to those already online.

The subcommittee’s report, the online toolkit, and information about “Speak Up, Speak Out: Protect the Faculty Voice” are available on the AAUP’s Web site, www.aaup.org. For more information, please contact Rachel Levinson at 202-737-5900, ext. 117, rlevinson@aaup.org.
“Whistling for What’s Right; Academic and Athletic Corruption at Binghamton University”  
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In terms of “reorganization,” I actively participated in the reorganization process and helped re-design and regularly taught one of their “resigned” required courses with little notice.

I’d also like to mention that during my time in Human Development I consistently received favorable reviews, received a number of differential salary increases, was nominated for the Provost’s Teaching Award, and was hired one year as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

If I was really dismissed for reasons unrelated to the academic/athletic issue, then why, per an informal email from the Provost, was I moved to "an adjunct position at Binghamton University in Harpur College for the spring semester while the independent audit… (was) being conducted"? It made no sense and it made perfect sense.

I have no doubt whatsoever that the university’s response was wrong. Dismissing about a very real and serious problem regarding academic and athletic corruption at Binghamton University was retaliatory. My work environment became ever more hostile, students were denied registration in my class, and at least one graduate student who strongly believed they were treated unfairly in part because they were my student.

I also find it immensely troubling that false and misleading information has been disseminated by certain members of the administration. For example, statements released to the press included incorrect information and some of the information in an (alleged) investigative report was an outright lie. Even more interesting is the fact that no one from the university ever contacted me for information, an explanation, or my records. And, although President DeFleur publically stated otherwise, I did not “chose to go directly to the press.”

Pete Thamel from the NY Times called me, although to this day I have no idea who gave him my name or how he heard about what happened. When he asked me questions I carefully yet truthfully answered. Not once did I compromise student confidentiality or my professional ethics.

On November 19, 2009 I received a letter from the Dean of Harpur College notifying me that I was being offered a part-time term appointment as a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology for the spring semester. In a separate communication from the CCPA Dean’s Office I was asked to completely vacate my office in Human Development on or before December 23rd and turn in my keys. It’s hard to state what that the Department and Sociology and the Dean of Harpur College have been absolutely welcoming and supportive. A contrast to the treatment I received from the College of Community and Public Affairs Dean’s Office and the current Chair of the Department of Human Development.

Words cannot begin to describe how stressful this entire experience has been. My home phone rang at night, my inbox was inundated with emails, and my personal and professional lives were profoundly and negatively affected. Colleagues and staff from within and outside the university contacted me with information that they had validated my experiences and confirmed my suspicions that my situation was not at all unique, yet they insisted I keep their names and information confidential. Eventually some of them agreed to come forward even though they were concerned about the repercussions. Other’s said “that after what happened to me they just couldn’t do it.” Most feared for their jobs. I thoroughly understood their position but strongly urged them to come forth if they had something relevant to report. I also became acutely aware of an undercurrent of apathy and was surprised to be added by the number of people who believed that ‘nothing anyone could do would ever make things change.’

Many people think that this is no longer a current or significant issue because an investigation is being conducted, the press has died down, and I am teaching in the spring. I wish that were the case. The fact is that what happened to me is only the tip of the iceberg and one example of what happens when Division I athletics and academics are at odds.

Binghamton knew exactly what they were getting into when they decided to go Division 1, they knew they were hiring an athlete who had a repuation for bringing in athletes with questionable academic standards, and they knowingly adopted a "win at all costs" mentality that blatantly compromised academic standards and integrity.

In the end the thing that keeps me going is the belief that the truth will come out and the responsible parties will be held accountable for their actions.

So far the only good thing about this whole experience is I have made some wonderful people and received nearly 200 emails of support from people all over the world and all walks of life, including professors, administrators, staff, students, athletes, coaches, parent’s of college students, full time faculty, and benefactors of the university.

These are all people who are committed to preservation of academic integrity and freedom, the value of higher education, and the elimination of athletic corruption. I salute them for their integrity and their bravery and proudly stand at their sides.

By Tom Polcino

The New York State AAUP Fall Conference 2009 was held at Syracuse University in October. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Sandra Cannon Scott, president of the National Council of AAUP, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Scott Consulting of Augusta, GA, a company that empowers diverse populations including faith-based minorities, unique individuals in transition, and organizations led by women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities to reach their greatest potential via customized economic recovery efforts. Sandra’s enthusiastic chronicle of her advocacy efforts and the consequences to her career showed her to be a brave and principled person. Sandra’s further participation in our open forums provided colleagues sharing issues with valuable additional helping resources. Thank you Sandra for joining us.

We held forums for the first time at our conference in response to feedback from our members. In both forums much time was spent discussing academic freedom issues. In our Friday forum at Syracuse University related faculty fears of speaking out about working conditions such as the current salary freeze were discussed. Several members pointed out that a collective and organized faculty is the best way to insure a climate where governance that enables the faculty to speak as a whole with less fear of retaliation. Our president reproted the story of how Molloy College organized a half-hour chapter that acts as a collective bargaining unit. It was suggested that organizing succeeds best around a single salient issue.

The discussion then turned to the continuing situation a RPI where the new President Ann Jackson who is one of the highest paid private university presidents in the country suspended the Faculty Senate back in 2007. Since then two new senate provosts, that were supported by faculty but were turned down by the administration. The conference concluded that the Board of Trustees was not recognizing the authority of AAUP in mediating this situation. The RPI faculty in attendance would like to see national AAUP investiagted to ensure RPI agreed to draft a letter of support for the RPI faculty effort to be sent to the RPI President. The following resolution was passed unanimously by the conference in support of RPI.

The Executive Committee of the NYSAAP, meeting in Syracuse, NY on October 17, 2009, expresses its deep concern regarding the alarming deterioration of faculty governance at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The unilateral administrative actions of President Molloy and Board of Trustees of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, repeated rejection of faculty efforts to resolve the situation, and ongoing disregard for established precepts of shared governance as enunciated in the documents of AAUP place the administration and trustees beyond the norms of academic governance. We therefore, urge the administration and trustees of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to enter into good faith mediation with representatives of the national AAUP in order to satisfactorily resolve the ongoing conflict.

St John’s faculty shared that they were successful in using an administrative initiative to add Saturdays into the regular course schedule block with a proposal that use M-W, T-R, and F-S for courses meeting twice per week.


NYS AAUP Conference 2010  
April 16-17

The NYS AAUP Spring 2010 Conference will be held April 16-17 at the offices of the Professional Staff Congress (PSC). New York State Faculty Assembly Broadway in Manhattan. The agenda is under development.

Items of importance to be considered at the conference include a vote on changes to the NYS Conference Constitution and the approval of some offices that are part of the NYS Conference leadership.

Updated information can be found on the State Conference website at nysaaup.org.

Elections will be held for the following:  
New York State Conference President  
New York State Conference Vice President  
New York State Conference Members at Large (2)

Chairs of the following committees and council members will be appointed:

 Anyone interested in serving as chair/member on one of these committees as a member of one of our other conference committees should contact the conference through the website.

The AAUP New York State Conference web site is www.nysaaup.org

NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director’s Report

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United University Professions (UUP) to the Governor: Stop Slashing SUNY's Budget

Governor Paterson’s proposed Executive Budget threatens to make an already bad situation at the State University of New York even worse, according to United University Professions President Philip H. Smith.

The governor’s proposed budget for 2010-11 would cut SUNY’s operating budget by $118 million. Combined with $410 million in budget reductions during the past two years, SUNY is now losing more than half a billion dollars in state support.

“SUNY is already suffering under the enormous weight of the previous budget cuts, with larger class sizes and fewer course offerings, robbing more and more students of the ability to graduate on schedule,” Smith said. “Any new reductions could deny the next generation of New Yorkers the opportunity to learn the skills they need to support themselves and to become the employees New York needs to attract new business.”

Smith is urging state lawmakers to reject the $118 million cut to SUNY.

“While Mr. Scott and certain members of the administration would deny that my appointment was a violation of academic integrity and freedom as well as the integrity and rights of my students. I refused to change the grades, the semester ended, and I thought my job was being resolved. Then the first NY Times article came out in the spring of 2008. Shortly thereafter I received a certified letter from the university stating that my appointment would not be renewed for the fall of 2009. I was livid. I wanted to be able to continue to teach at SUNY.

Smith also expressed serious reservations about the governor’s proposal to increase so-called “flexibility” for SUNY, which would empower the University to unilaterally raise tuition and fees, impose charges on lecture halls, create and sell cooperatives, and introduce shared governance, without strong legislative oversight.

“Historically, whenever SUNY has raised its tuition, the amount of state support going to SUNY is cut,” Smith warned. “I fear SUNY would further reduce its parents would wind up paying more and getting less. Equal access to the University would no longer be possible, because tens of thousands of students would not be able to afford the higher tuition at some campuses.

Standardized tuition ensures equal access to all SUNY campuses.”

Smith said public accountability and transparency would be seriously eroded in the absence of legislative scrutiny.

“Going down this road moves the University on a hazardous path toward privatization,” he said.

Smith also said the Executive Budget fails to adequately fund SUNY’s hospitals. Specifically, the budget lacks $74.5 million to cover mandatory costs, and changes to Medicaid funding would impact hospital programs and services.

He also expressed concern about the fate of the New York State Theater Institute. He urged lawmakers to reject the governor’s proposal to eliminate state funding for NYSTI.

I had with my students and that I was expected to give unfair advantage to some students over others in terms of work, participation in his office, attendance was a violation of academic integrity and freedom as well as the integrity and rights of my students.

as soon as his intentions and expectations became clear I immediately availed myself of university avenues for raising concerns by going to Al Dekin, (acting) Chair of Human Development, College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA). He contacted the CCPA Dean’s Office who, in turn, communicated with various members of the administration, including the University Attorney.

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Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, presently under investiga- tion by the AAUP for violations of shared governance, has submitted plans to build a large mansion for President Shirley Ann Jackson and future heads of the school.

The house, which would replace the school’s existing presidential home, is proposed at 9,000 square feet and would be built north of the existing house.

The house would be a two-story dwelling with a large circular driveway and a three-bay garage. The house would be 41 to 44 feet high, a height that exceeds Troy’s residential zoning limit of 25 feet and requires RPI to obtain a variance before construction.

RPI informed the university community of its plans for a new presidential home in December, when the school’s Board of Trustees approved the building. William Walker, the school’s vice president of strategic communications, stated that the present residence is too small.

Jackson’s existing home will become a guest house for the new home, according to the plans submitted to the city. The new residence, will also include 19 guest parking spaces. It will be paid for by personal donations from the Board of Trustees.

Candidates for 2010 National AAUP Election

The candidates for national officer positions and for nine at-large seats on the Association’s governing Council have been set. The candidates include those nominated by the Nominating Committee at its September 5, 2009 meeting and candidates nominated independently.

Biographical information and election statements from each candidate will be posted on the AAUP website (www.aaup.org). For more information, contact Jenn Nichols at jnichols@aaup.org.

RPI Proposes a Grand Presidential Home for Shirley Ann Jackson

Whistling for What’s Right: Academic and Athletic Corruption at Binghamton University

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players that were in one of my classes. I also met with him once in his office.

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2010 Summer Institute to be Held at San Diego State University

This year’s Summer Institute will be held at San Diego State University. The event, which is the AAUP’s premier resource for sharpening members’ leadership skills and training them in the arts of faculty advocacy, will take place July 29 to August 1.

Faculty and other academic professionals from across the country will attend the Institute to learn how to create and implement strategies for improving shared faculty governance at their institutions.

Packed with interactive workshops and seminars led by poli- cy, financial, legal, media, and organizing experts, the Summer Institute provides attendees with tools and resources to help them protect and strengthen professional standards and improve conditions under which they conduct research and teach classes.

Last year’s Institute included workshops on: staking facul- ty’s leadership role in times of financial crisis; analyzing institu- tions’ financial documents; strengthening faculty handbook lan- guage; creating winning campaigns; organizing a successful membership drive; negotiating contracts and administering grievances, and building a better tenure process, and more.

Details about the 2010 Summer Institute will be posted on the AAUP website (www.aaup.org). For more information, contact Jenn Nichols at jnichols@aaup.org.

CURRENT EVENTS

Granville Ganter (English), St. John’s University (N.Y.)

Richard Goles (ESL), Rutgers University (N.J.)

Lisa Higgins (English), University of Delaware (Del.)

Rana Jaleel (American Studies), New York University

Benjamin Muoio (Political Science/Asian Studies), Bowling Green State University (Ohio)

*Charles Parrish (Political Science), Wayne State University (Mich.)

Sheila Teahan (English), Michigan State University

Cat Warren (English), North Carolina State University

Jeffrey Williams (English), Carnegie Mellon University (Penn.)

Deanna D. Wood (Library), University of New Hampshire

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