

Stony Brook 2009 Legislative Priorities

Pillar One - Rational Tuition Policy

A rational tuition policy would enable State University students and their families to plan for education costs through completion of their degree program. The policy would generate a predictable level of funding for campuses to invest in academic quality initiatives and allow for the delivery of services that result in economic development for their host communities.

A SUNY student Assembly, representing all 64 State University campuses, voted to support a rational tuition plan and the resulting investment in access and academic quality.

SUNY requests:

- A multi-year rational plan tied to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI).
- Appropriation authority to spend the spring '09 (\$68 million) and fall '09 (\$140 million) tuition revenue resulting from the in-state (\$310 Spring/\$620 Fall) and out-of-state (\$1,130 Spring/ \$2,260 Fall) tuition increases adopt and implemented by the SUNY Board of Trustees.
- 100% of the revenue from student tuition must be used for its intended purpose to allow campuses to protect and, where possible, expand the University's ability to deliver a broadly accessible and high quality education for all students.

Impact on Stony Brook University:

The Legislature needs to fully appropriate funds to allow Stony Brook to spend the additional money collected. Tuition increase income in spring 2009 is projected to be \$9.5M which will increase to about \$21M for the full 2009-10 academic year. These resources will help us avoid deeper cuts to academic programs such as class cancelations and reductions in scholarships (graduate and undergraduate) and allow some of the recent reductions to maintenance, custodial and student services to be restored. In order for Stony Brook to retain 100% of revenue from new tuition increases, the Legislature must restore the Governor's cuts essentially negate 90% of the tuition increase in 2008-09 and 80% in 2009-10.

Pillar Two - Building Public-Private Partnerships

An expanded land use policy would unleash the spirit of innovation on SUNY's diverse campuses and allow them to use capital assets to foster new public-private partnerships and enhance opportunities to expand entrepreneurial activities that could generate several million dollars annually for SUNY campuses. Such revenue would provide additional resources to invest in strengthening academic quality and ensure access. In a time of rising costs and declining state support, the University must become entrepreneurial and more self-sufficient. The City University of New York already has such authority.

SUNY requests:

- Statutory authority to lease and sell its capital assets, consistent with state laws and policies, and be exempted from state provisions for the disposal of surplus property.

- Authority to maximize use of its assets in areas such as public-private partnerships that promote commercial and community-based activities, natural resources, land use, and rental income.
- Expanded use of campus capital facilities to generate needed revenue to advance SUNY.

Impact on Stony Brook University:

This will enable us to extend existing ground leases such as our Hotel Ground Lease and provide opportunities to build faculty and student housing.

This would enable the University to enter into public/private partnerships to construct buildings in the Stony Brook Research & Technology Park thereby reducing the reliance on state funding for this purpose. Income from the rental of these facilities would be used to expand the research effort.

Changes would also encourage cooperative use of athletic fields and facilities with community programs in a manner that would result in expansion of services to students, reduced cost and improved relations with the local community.

Pillar Three - Management and Operational Reforms and Efficiencies (MORE)

MORE would provide SUNY with administrative and regulatory relief in its day-to-day operations and allow it to institute greater operational efficiencies and respond to the growing needs of the residents, businesses and governments in their host communities.

SUNY requests:

- Control of income from tuition, fees, and other university revenue. Although these revenues are basically user fees (i.e., technology and health services fees) and collected for specific purposes, the state treats them as state revenue, allocated by the Division of Budget (and pre-audited by the state comptroller), that are subject to use for non-educational purposes.
- Implement post-audit accounting practices for expenditures, instead of pre- and post-audit.
- Ease bureaucratic red tape in procurements and contracts, and the use of internal management rules and systems, consistent with sound business practices and state finance law.
- Authority to establish personnel system parallel to the state civil service system for system for classified personnel.
- Capital construction flexibility for more cost-efficient and efficient methods of delivery in the management of more than \$4 billion in construction projects.

Impact on Stony Brook University:

Post audit of expenditures – This change will allow us to be more efficient and reduce workload and process transactions in a timelier manner.

We would, in some instances, want to use these new contracting options such as design/build and Construction Manager at risk.

The new guidelines would be consistent with those adopted by public authorities. The dollar amounts for certain types of bidding are higher and the contract award guidelines are more flexible. We would use as appropriate.

Pillar Four- Essential State Support

To serve the interests of New York, SUNY needs an appropriate level of state support, including mandatory costs, such as contractual salary increases, energy expenses, expanded enrollment funding, as well as support for initiatives such as recruitment of world-class research faculty and the training for critical, high need jobs.

SUNY requests:

- State support of \$153.6 million for state operated campuses for base level costs for negotiated salaries, increased enrollment of students and energy costs.
- \$10 million to support the recruitment of faculty and researchers, and to expand training for critical, high needs jobs in areas such as nursing and technology.
- Adequately fund SUNY's three hospitals to allow them to continue to provide critical health care to all New Yorkers, regardless of their ability to pay for such services and to educate the many doctors, nurses and technicians who serve the local communities.

Impact on Stony Brook University:

Support of obligatory negotiated salary increases is critical to Stony Brook's financial condition. We are required by law to pay these increases and failure to fund them would cause an \$11.5M hole in Stony Brook's budget.

The reduction in State Support amounts to a \$10.5M decrease in funding for the Hospital's cost of state sponsorship. The cumulative impact since fiscal year 2004/05 of underfunding the costs of State sponsorship amounts to \$54M. This decrease in funding impinges on the Hospital's ability to operate its safety net mission services such as Regional Trauma Center, Neonatal Intensive Care, and Mentally Disabled services. This will also drastically reduce the Hospital's ability to staff newly expanded emergency services.

Specific programs included in SUNY's University-Wide category that would experience serious resource reduction based on Executive Budget cuts follow. Please refer to web addresses for details on these and the need of legislative support.

- Restore funding for the Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR)
- Graduate scholarship reductions
- Academic Equipment Replacement
- Sea Grant Institute
- Empire Innovation Program
- Student Computing Access