2019-2020 Budget Update

We have made substantial progress in stabilizing our University budget through campus-wide efforts to reduce expenses and grow revenue. We have slowed down hiring, identified operational efficiencies, and achieved some enrollment growth. We have also received additional revenue in the form of tuition and fee increases and State funding related to the retroactive payments due under our labor contracts.

Thanks to our collective efforts to reduce expenses and grow revenue, we will be able to make modest investments in strategic programs and initiatives heading into the 2019-2020 academic year. Our 2019-2020 budget identifies priority areas around student success, research growth, faculty support, and diversity and inclusion initiatives. Investment decisions are the result of this year’s rigorous budget planning process, which included the participation of faculty, staff, students, and other campus stakeholders.

Investment areas identified through the planning process include:

- Raising graduate student stipends to $20,000.
- Increasing the number of TA/GA lines from 748 to 758.
- Increasing instructional capacity in the academic units (providing more than 2800 additional seats in the fall 2019 semester). This expansion improves course availability for undergraduate students, supports on-time progress toward degree completion, increases access to high demand programs, and develops new course offerings that reflect evolving student and faculty interests.
- Developing organizational structures and administrative processes to support academic units in graduate recruitment and retention, and to grow applications and improve yield while maintaining academic quality.
- Continuing recruitment of researchers and clinician scientists to increase our research efforts in cancer treatment and medical imaging.
- Increasing support for the campus experience of international students.
- Funding for staffing to strengthen the maintenance of University buildings.
- Assisting campus implementation of the technology-related standards of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and other accessibility initiatives.
- Continuing support for initiatives related to the implementation of our University Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

We will also provide support to the following units to ensure their continued growth as follows:

- The College of Arts and Sciences to address the “grand challenges” identified in the College strategic planning process with the goal of meeting student needs, enhancing cross-discipline research and programs, and sustaining faculty and staff recruitment and retention.
• The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to grow faculty and staff with the goal of increasing research expenditures, growing enrollment, and improving diversity among faculty and students.
• The School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences to support its strategic plan, with the goal of doubling its research enterprise, and strengthening academic programs (including on-line instruction).
• The Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center and the Turkana Basin Institute to grow faculty, expand programs, and renovate laboratories.
• The University Libraries to support overnight staffing.
• The College of Business to meet its 2020 goal for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and to increase research opportunities available to students.
• The Southampton Graduate Arts Campus to support ongoing program growth.
• The Division of Undergraduate Education to enable student-outcome-driven investments around advisement, orientation, and other cross-campus services to serve our growing student population.
• The School of Social Welfare to develop a distance learning curriculum and support student travel to rural placements.
• The School of Health Technology and Management to develop a Speech Pathology major on our Southampton campus.
• The School of Dental Medicine to implement a digital dentistry initiative, collaborative learning protocols, faculty data management, and admissions support.
• The School of Nursing to develop additional student opportunities to work in underserved areas, and to establish a nursing residency program.
• The School of Medicine to enhance the Neurology program and recruit additional research faculty.
• The Student Accessibility Support Center to facilitate testing coordination for specially enabled students.
• Student Affairs to provide additional student support staff, including positions focused on diversity and inclusion.

Employing a thoughtful and critical approach to identifying key investment opportunities will be an essential part of our efforts to maintain a strong, upward trajectory for our University. Insofar as we do not expect New York State to provide significant new resources to the SUNY system in the coming years, we will continue to manage our resources efficiently – striving always to link funding decisions with key strategic plans and priorities.