



Dear

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Board of the UUP Chapter at SUNY Fredonia which approved a resolution on 3/2/11 in support of a five-year tuition plan for SUNY. We are deeply concerned for our students now and in the future especially in regard to access and quality. We fully understand that this year's proposed 10% reduction in SUNY's state funding has been necessitated by the state fiscal crisis. However we also point out that for the past three years SUNY has endured extraordinary cuts in order to do our part (and then some!) to assist the state during these difficult times. Our resolution does not ask for restoration of the cuts, but rather for your assistance through legislation to ensure students continue to have access to classes so that they can graduate on time and that the quality of education offered to these and other future students does not suffer and decline.

Our resolution contains two key components:

FIVE YEAR TUITION PLAN. SUNY has proposed a 5-year plan whereby the legislature would establish a 'cap' on annual tuition increases, and the SUNY Board of Trustees would establish the annual increase within the confines of the cap, beginning in Fall 2011. Our expectation would be for modest tuition increases. A figure has been mentioned of \$ 200 per semester for the 2010-2012 academic year. Boards routinely set tuition in 45 states and about half have annual 'caps' which can only be exceeded under exceptional budget circumstances with prior approval by the legislature and the Governor. The 'caps' established by other states range from a low of 7% (Oklahoma) to a high of 10% (California). These states, unless they are facing very difficult budget times as we are experiencing now, normally set tuition at a level below the cap.

MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT. Our request for maintenance of effort involves several components: (1) routine provision of state funding to cover incremental costs associated with any collective bargaining agreement negotiated by the Governor's Office of Employee Relations – every other part of state government routinely receives these funds, and only SUNY has been the exception to this rule; and (2) as exists for all other components of New York public higher education, mid-year cuts to SUNY state-operated campuses should only occur with the concurrence of the legislature, and not be unilaterally imposed; and (3) revenue gains to a campus by the tuition increase not be undercut by any corresponding reduction in state funding.

As members of the faculty and professional staff at SUNY Fredonia we can speak personally on the important role this campus plays in our community and region, to the quality of the personnel at the campus, and for the concern our members exhibit daily towards the well-being of our students. SUNY needs your support of a modest tuition increase as part of the five year plan to ensure that students continue to have access to the classes they need to graduate. It is important to establish a multiyear tuition plan that allows SUNY campuses to serve their students

Our future, and that of our children, depends in large part upon the future of SUNY. We truly believe there is no better investment than higher education. We ask you to please support a five-year rational tuition plan for SUNY and the maintenance of effort provisions identified in this letter.

We hope and trust that you share in our belief in the power of public higher education to help our state and our country, and that you will support this rational tuition plan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bridget A. Russell
UUP Fredonia Chapter President

Executive Board Approval of Resolution on 3/2/11 by:

Dr. Ziya Arnavut
Ms. Mary Cobb
Ms. Jean Harper
Ms. Janet Mayer
Dr. Tom Morrissey
Ms. Gerda Morrissey
Dr. Mac Nelson
Dr. Khalid Siddiqui
Dr. Bruce Simon
Mr. Christopher Taverna