

Governor Budget Cuts CUNY, SUNY and TAP

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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 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."

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."

CICU President Laura L. Anglin said that "With demand for state student aid at an all-time high, the Executive Budget released today puts an obstacle in the path for thousands of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers enrolled at colleges and universities in the state. By reducing the maximum TAP grant and eliminating Grad TAP, students will lose an essential source of assistance for meeting current college expenses.

"At a time when dollars are limited, it makes the most sense to invest in our strengths. By honoring commitments to New York's signature student aid program, we can help bright, motivated students earn a college degree. The returns to them, to their families, and to New York taxpayers will be multifold.

"The presidents of New York's independent colleges and universities and I look forward to working with the Governor and state legislators to seek restorations for TAP.

From the NYS AAUP President's Desk:

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establishing the norms of the academy. Much of what we take 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.

During my terms 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. The friendships I have made with colleagues in a variety of disciplines across the state will endure.

My time as president has been enriched by my association with many, and here I name just a few. **Frank Higman** was my immediate predecessor; **Irwin Yellowitz** has been an outstanding chair of our state Committee A; **Pat Cihon** has been an exemplary treasurer; the editors of *New York Academe*, **Jeff Kraus**, and prior to Jeff, the late **John Diehl** who have regularly produced an award winning publication; other members of the executive committee, currently **Jeanette Jeneault**, **Cecelia McCall**, **Kate Eskew**, **David Linton**, **John Marino** and **Suzanne Wagner** have provided valuable ideas and insights. I must make special mention of my colleague, **Estelle Gellman**, now retired from Hofstra, who has been a constant source of wisdom; I thank the two wonderful executive directors, **Jeanine Plottel** and **Tom Policano**, with whom I have had the pleasure of working.

I thank all of you for making it possible for me to serve as your Conference president. The AAUP remains an important and dynamic force in American higher education and I urge each of you who reads this to become more involved and more active in the work of the organization. You will find the experience to be enriching.

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From the President's Desk: Governor Budget Cuts CUNY, SUNY and TAP



by Stephen Z. Goldberg (Adelphi University)

The next meeting of the New York State Conference of the AAUP will be held on April 16-17. It will be the twelfth meeting at which I will have presided as president of the Conference. It will also be the last. As you may know, the president of the Conference is elected for a two year term and may stand for election for at most two consecutive terms following his/her initial election.

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 position of president, but to all our elective positions. It applies not only at the Conference level but also at the chapter level.

A vibrant organization needs a constant infusion of new people, new styles and new ideas. While I do not pay much heed to general generational labels such as baby-boomers, generation X-ers, the millennium generation, etc., I do think it is true that in an evolving environment it is important that a diverse group of individuals bring their ideas and perspectives to the leadership table. In the New York Conference we have been somewhat successful in this regard.

Our Conference leadership team includes senior faculty, contingent faculty and academic professionals. Where we have fallen short is that we have not had much of a voice from junior tenure-track faculty.

Perhaps new faculty entering the academic community are not aware of the important role that the AAUP has played in

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**The NYS AAUP Spring 2010
Conference · April 16-17
at the offices
of the Professional Staff
Congress (PSC)
61 Broadway, Manhattan
(see page 3)**

Governor Budget Cuts CUNY, SUNY and TAP

Governor David Paterson's 2010-2011 Executive Budget proposes another round of budget cuts for SUNY and CUNY, as well as reductions in the State's Tuition Assistance Program. The Governor also proposes giving SUNY and CUNY "flexibility" to raise tuition without permission from the State Legislature, giving the two state-funded systems the opportunity to make up for the shortfall in state aid.

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 would be losing more than half a billion dollars in state support.

The governor has proposed \$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 semester.

As part of the Governor's plan to eliminate a more than \$7 billion deficit, **\$50 million in cuts is proposed for the Tuition**

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"Whistling for What's Right; Academic and Athletic Corruption at Binghamton University"

Submitted by Sally Dear, Ph.D. Candidate and Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

First, let me make it clear that I never expected or wanted to be involved in a 'scandal' involving athletics and academic integrity that would lead to a university-wide review and investigation by a Retired Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. I also never would have believed that possessing and practicing academic integrity would cost me my job, slander my name, defame my reputation, cause me immense personal and emotional turmoil, and quite possibly ruin my career.

In the fall of 2008 I was teaching two classes for the Department of Human Development. On September 26th I received the first of many communiqués from Mr. Scott, Associate Director of Athletics, regarding three basketball

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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*. This is the first 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) New Threats to Faculty Governance,”** about a recent university-wide program of politically correct indoctrination: “This so-called ‘educational’ program was a flagrant violation of students’ rights.”
- **“The Demise of Shared Governance at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,”** about a university president who shut down a faculty senate when it expanded its membership. The authors call it “a cautionary tale in the annals of declining shared governance across the nation’s institutions of higher education.”
- **“The AAUP, Academic Freedom, and the Cold War,”** a compelling account of a McCarthy-era persecution of a progressive faculty member: “To suspend a man without a hearing is not only unfair but a serious breach of the academic freedom in which we both believe.”
- **“Ward Churchill at the Dalton Trumbo Fountain,”** the most detailed independent analysis of the Ward Churchill case: “It is only by construing academic freedom in the very narrowest of procedural terms that we can conclude it was not violated.”
- **“Paranoia and Professionalization,”** in which a graduate student explains why academic freedom matters: “The general movement toward uniformity across sections of courses prevents graduate students from developing a pedagogy and persona that is tied to their scholarship.”

Investigation at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Gary Rhoades, the AAUP general secretary, has authorized an investigation into key issues of shared governance at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which is located in Troy, New York.

The investigation, which will be carried out by a committee of AAUP members with no previous involvement in the situation, will focus on issues of concern surrounding the ongoing suspension of Rensselaer’s faculty senate.

The institute’s provost, Robert E. Palazzo, suspended the senate in August 2007 following a disagreement among faculty members, administrators, and the university’s Board of Trustees over moves by the senate to extend voting rights to non-tenure-track faculty members.

In a September 2007 referendum, faculty members approved a motion calling for the reinstatement of the university’s Faculty Senate. At that time, the American Association of University Professors sent a letter to Rensselaer’s president, Shirley Ann Jackson, criticizing the provost’s actions as contrary to the principles of shared governance.

Amendments to the Faculty Constitution proposed by the suspended Faculty Senate have been rejected by the RPI administration, leaving the institution without a faculty senate or a successor institution.

A full article on the controversy appeared in the Summer 2009 issue of *New York Academe*, which can be accessed at http://www.nysaaup.org/library/academe_ny/nyacademe_v34_no1_summer_09.pdf

Action Campaign to Protect Academic Freedom

In the face of unprecedented threats to academic freedom at public colleges and universities, the American Association of University Professors has launched an awareness and action campaign called **“Speak Up, Speak Out: Protect the Faculty Voice.”**

The foundation of the project is a comprehensive report from a subcommittee of the AAUP’s Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure that examines the 2006 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Garcetti v. Ceballos* and its aftermath. The Court found that government can restrict the speech of public employees when they comment on issues related to their “official duties.”

While the decision specifically set aside “speech related to scholarship or teaching,” recognizing that such speech might have greater constitutional protection, several lower courts have ruled recently that faculty members who speak out on matters affecting their institutions are not protected under the First Amendment.

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 current threat to faculty speech jeopardizes more than just individual educators,” says AAUP president Cary Nelson; “A greater community is at risk. We must defend faculty speech to encourage faculty members to use their expertise in addressing issues critical to society.”

To supplement the report, AAUP has developed an online toolkit, the contents of which are available for free on the Web. Materials include an action plan, proposed policy language, opinion columns, and other materials that may be used by general-interest and campus publications, education journals, and Web sites 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

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NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director’s Report

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An RIT adjunct faculty member discussed ongoing efforts on campus to raise the level of integration of adjunct faculty as part of the campus community. A second follow up adjunct faculty survey is under development. While raises for all RIT faculty were frozen for the second year in a row the RIT AAUP Chapter was successful in their efforts to have the adjunct faculty receive a 3% raise along with campus staff who earn under \$35,000 per year.

On Saturday our forum focused on the much-publicized fight SUNY Binghamton administration and lecturer Sally Dear over her refusal to inflate grades for athletes. She has remained strong against the bullying tactics used against her and has succeeded in getting reinstated pending the resolution of her appeal claiming that the non-renewal of her contract this year was retaliatory. The conference unanimously adopted the following motion in support of Sally Dear:

The NY conference fully endorses Sally Dear’s effort to work with the national office of AAUP to resolve the issue, and the conference offers its support as well.

We also learned that adjuncts at Marymount are at the closing stages of negotiation with administration. Terms include a salary increase in excess of 10% and an additional 2% over two years. Adjuncts may also receive the same rights on intellectual property as the full-time faculty.

Aside from Conference leadership reports that will be published in the conference minutes and available on line after approval at the business transacted at the meeting included a lengthy discussion about recommendations to modify our NYS AAUP Conference Constitution and By-Laws to improve opportunities for inclusion of more members in the nomination and election of our leadership.

A committee was established to work with National AAUP to be sure that our changes harmonize with association practice and legal regulations. This committee has been working since their recommendations have been reviewed by the Executive Committee, shared with our statewide chapter leadership and are currently out to the membership for review and feedback.

A copy of the revised Constitution is included in this issue of *Academe* and is available on our site at: [http://nysaaup.org/library/nysaaup_constitution_draft.htm]. A vote on the revised Constitution will take place at our NYS AAUP Conference Spring 2010 this April 17th. Please review this document and get back to us with any suggestions.

I am very pleased to inform our membership that as a sign of continued cooperation and coordination between our state conference and National AAUP, we will be able to contact our membership directly through email. Direct NYS AAUP Conference access to our membership was one of my very first initiatives when I came on board in January, 2007.

I am very pleased by this newest National AAUP policy decision that makes this possible. Rest assured that this privilege would only be used for official NYS AAUP Conference business and with full respect for our member’s privacy. Also starting in 2011 our NYS Elections will become a part of the National AAUP Election ballot! This will give many more of you easier access to conference elections.

Please note that our NYS AAUP Conference Spring 2010 will be held at the Professional Staff Congress, 61 Broadway, NY, NY 10004. Look for the complete agenda and registration information on our web site (nysaaup.org). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the conference.

Action to Protect Academic Freedom

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● **Larry Gerber**, chair, AAUP Committee on College and University Governance, and professor of history, Auburn University, Ala.

● **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 on 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 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:

- Propose changes to existing institutional policies where the policies are insufficient to protect faculty speech and expressive activity.
- Incorporate protective language into collective bargaining agreements.
- Remind public university governing boards, senior administrators, and legal counsel about the risks of limiting academic freedom.
- Monitor emerging cases and other activity on campus 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 restrictions on speech.
- 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 foster 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 excellent reviews.

I’d also like to mention that during my time in Human Development I consistently received favorable reviews, received a number of discretionary 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 told I would have “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 to my speaking out 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 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 “chase 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. I’d like to state here that the Department of Sociology and the Dean of Harpur College have been absolutely welcoming and supportive – a stark 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 day and 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 both validated my experience 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 thor-

oughly understood their position but strongly encouraged them to come forth if they had something relevant to report. I also became acutely aware of an undercurrent of apathy and was saddened 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 I, they knew they were hiring a basketball coach who had a reputation 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 that I have met 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, community members, and benefactors of the university.

These are all people who are committed to the 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.

NYS AAUP Conference Executive Director’s Report

By Tom Policano

The New York State AAUP Fall Conference 2009 was held at Syracuse University in October. Our Keynote speaker was Dr. Sandra Cannon Scott, nominee for membership on the HBCU National Committee of AAUP, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Scott Consulting of Augusta, GA, a company that empowers diverse populations including faith-based ministries, 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 two open 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 issues 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 of shared governance that enables the faculty to speak as a whole with less fear of retaliation. Our president retold the story of how Molloy College organized to create an advocacy 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 constitutions that were supported by faculty but were turned down by the administration. We were told that the RPI Board of Trustee’s does not recognize the authority of AAUP in mediate this situation. The RPI faculty in attendance would like to see national AAUP investigate and censure RPI. The conference 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 NYS AAUP, 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 dissolution of the Faculty Senate, 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 blocking 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.

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NYS AAUP Conference Spring 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), which is located at, 61 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 selection 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 or as a member of one of our other conference committees should contact the conference through the website.

- New York State Conference CUNY Council
- New York State Conference SUNY Council
- New York State Conference Collective Bargaining Council
- New York State Conference Committee A
- New York State Conference Committee on Government Relations
- New York State Conference Committee on Women in the Academic Profession
- New York State Conference Committee on the Status of Minorities in the Profession

The NYS AAUP Constitution Draft can be found at http://nysaaup.org/library/nysaaup_constitution_draft.htm
NYS AAUP Conference Spring 2010 Registration is form is at:

http://nysaaup.org/conference_register_spring2010.htm.

NYS AAUP Conference Spring 2010 Agenda is at: http://nysaaup.org/library/conference_meetings/nysaaup_spring10/index.htm

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

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 Phillip 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 would be 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.

"We are not ignoring the fact that New York is facing a fiscal crisis, but the state can't afford to sacrifice its future," Smith said. "SUNY is an investment that will pay off by producing a workforce with the talent it takes to bring jobs to the state and rejuvenate its economy."

"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.

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.

While Mr. Scott and certain members of the administration made it clear that they did not expect me to hold my student athletes to the same academic and attendance standards as my other students, my Chair was one hundred percent supportive of my position, stating that "the determining document is the faculty handbook or bulletin which places ultimate authority in instructional faculty, given proper notice to students as conveyed in a distributed or available syllabus."

For the record, the attendance policy for my class was clearly stated in the syllabus. It also followed (and I referenced) the university attendance policy. It became blatantly clear that I was being asked to break the contract (syllabus)

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 enter into leases, contracts and joint ventures, without strong legislative oversight.

"Historically, whenever SUNY has raised its tuition, the amount of state support going to SUNY is cut," Smith warned. "Students and their 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 Theatre 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, and attendance. This 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 the issue has been 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 based on a "strategic reprioritization of resources." Although I ended up receiving an offer for a part-time term appointment, I was dropped from two classes to one for the first time in many years. There were also perceptible negative changes in my work environment.

Shortly after the second *NY Times* article came out in the fall of 2009 I received another certified letter saying that my appointment would not be renewed for the spring due to "budgetary and reorganizational" issues.

If there were "budgetary" issues why did the department fill two new lines (not the first of which were under questionable conditions) for fall (2008) and hire four new adjuncts for spring (2009)?

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RPI Proposes a Grand Presidential Home for Shirley Ann Jackson

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, presently under investigation by national 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.

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 meet to learn how to create and implement strategies for improving shared faculty governance at their institutions.

Packed with interactive workshops and seminars led by policy, 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 faculty's leadership role in times of financial crisis; analyzing institutions' financial documents; strengthening faculty handbook language; 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.

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 by petition. Incumbents are designated by an asterisk (*); petition candidates are designated by a pound sign (#).

Biographical information and election statements from each candidate will be posted on the AAUP Web site on January 15, 2010 and will accompany the electronic ballots, which will be sent out between March 3 and March 8, 2010. Ballots must be returned and received on or before April 15, 2010.

President

***Cary Nelson** (English), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Donna Potts (English), Kansas State University

First Vice President

Stanley Aronowitz (Sociology), City University of New York

Wendy Roworth (Art History), University of Rhode Island

Second Vice President

***Estelle S. Gellman** (Educational Psychology), Hofstra University (N.Y.)

Mayra Besosa (Spanish), California State University, San Marcos

Secretary-Treasurer

***Howard Bunsis** (Accounting), Eastern Michigan University

Michele Ganon (Accounting), Western Connecticut State University

At-Large Council Nominees

***Steve Aby** (Bibliography), University of Akron (Ohio)

***Jacqueline Arante** (English), Portland State University (Ore.)

Maria Bacigalupo (Education), Curry College (Mass.)

L. Lacy Barnes (Fine Arts and Social Sciences), Reedley College (Calif.)

Leslie Bryan (Theater Arts/Dance), California State University, San Bernardino

#**Jane L. Buck** (Psychology), Delaware State University

John Conley (Cultural Studies/Comparative Literature), University of Minnesota

Jamie Owen Daniel (English and Gender Studies), Northwestern University (Ill.)

Kimberly Emery (English), University of Florida

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

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

Lisa Higgins (English), College of DuPage (Ill.)

Rana Jaleel (American Studies), New York University

Benjamin Muego (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