



BU APSCUF NEWSLETTER

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
400 E. 2nd Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Phone: (570) 389- 4329



February 2009

From the APSCUF President

Bloomsburg APSCUF LEADERSHIP

Chapter President— Stephen Kokoska

Vice President— Yvette Samson

Secretary— Toni Bell

Treasurer— A. Blair Staley

Delegates to the Legislative Assembly:

1. Stephen Kokoska
2. Julie Kontos
3. Mark Melnychuk
4. Dee Anne Wymer
5. Terrance Riley
6. Christopher Hallen
7. Wendy Lee
8. Stephen Wiist

Grievance Committee— William Hudon

Meet/Discuss & Negotiations Committee— Richard Angelo

Nominations, Elections, & Rules Committee— William Calhoun

Membership Committee— Michael Coffta

Public Relations Committee— John Polhill

Health & Welfare Committee— Darlene Perner

Legislative Committee— Gloria Cohen-Dion

Social Committee— Sharon Solloway

Gender Issues Committee— Darla Bressler

Coaches Delegate to Legislative Assembly— Paul Darragh

Alternate Coaches Delegate to Legislative Assembly— Vacant

Representative to State Coaches Committee— Danny Hale

Alternative Representative to State Coaches Committee—

Vacant

Coaches Grievance Representative— Karen Brandt

What's in this newsletter?

- ◆ Dues Increase Update (pg. 2)
- ◆ Upcoming Meetings (pg. 2)
- ◆ Healthy-U Update (pg. 2)
- ◆ Discipline for Smoking (pg. 3)
- ◆ Important Tax Info. (pg. 3)
- ◆ Committee Involvement (pg. 3)
- ◆ Upcoming Elections (pg. 3)
- ◆ Faculty & Coaches Orientation Internship Program (pg. 4)
 - ◆ State APSCUF looking for books/articles (pg. 4)
 - ◆ It's CAP Time Again! (pg. 5)
- ◆ 2009 STATE APSCUF Scholarship (pg. 5)
 - ◆ "APSCUF Thankful for Governor's Support.."(pg. 6-7)
 - ◆ Budget Alert (pg. 8)

The APSCUF Legislative Assembly met on February 5-7 in Harrisburg. I want you to know about the debate concerning two very important issues: the process for contract negotiations and the state APSCUF budget.

The Legislative Assembly has been struggling with various proposals to change the Negotiation Team, the Negotiation Committee, and the contract approval process. The Chapter Presidents were asked to consider the relevant debate and write a comprehensive proposal. A final recommendation was approved by the Legislative Assembly. The proposal includes a Negotiations Team with four members: the state president, two faculty members, and an outside, professional negotiator (probably a lawyer with experience in labor relations). The Negotiation Committee will consist of the Chapter Presidents. The Team will negotiate directly with PASSHE and will bring proposals to the Committee for a vote to accept a tentative agreement. We will all have the opportunity to examine the bylaw changes before we vote.

This year's state APSCUF budget is approximately 4.2 million dollars and almost all of the income is from dues. The budget this year is 2% less than last year, and the proposed budget for next year includes another 2% decrease in spending. State personnel costs are rising, we will need to hire a professional negotiator soon, and there is a strong sentiment against dipping into the reserve fund. A presentation at the Legislative Assembly indicated a shift in faculty demographics: fewer senior, full professors and more instructors and assistant professors. Therefore, we collect less in dues.

The State APSCUF Executive Council and the Legislative Delegates considered several ideas to reduce the budget. Some suggestions included decreasing the number of Legislative Assemblies, decreasing the travel reimbursement, and adjustments to chapter rebates. As State APSCUF Treasurer, Chris Hallen has done a fine job auditing the state budget and suggesting changes. However, State APSCUF will face some very difficult budget decisions in the next few years. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Stephen Kokoska



UPDATE ON DUES INCREASE

State APSCUF President Steve Hicks, and State APSCUF Treasurer, Chris Hallen, met with members at our General Membership meeting on January 22, 2009. They presented detailed data and answered questions concerning the State APSCUF Budget. More information about the upcoming proposed dues increase can be found on the State APSCUF website, Members only section ([click here](#)). If you do not have a Members Only login or password, please call Jill Bond in the local APSCUF office, extension 4329.

The Dues Increase vote will take place on April 14th & 15th. More information about this will be forwarded to you in the near future. You can also contact the Legislative Assembly Delegates.

Healthy-U Update

[click here](#)



Upcoming Meetings

Next General Membership Meeting

◆ To Be Announced

Next APSCUF Executive Board

◆ Friday, February 27, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Please let us know if there is any APSCUF business you would like to add to either agenda.



Legislative Assembly

April 2-4, 2009
Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh—
Southpointe, Canonsburg

Mark your calendars for the **Spring Social!**

When? April 24th

Where? Frosty Valley Country Club

*More Information Coming Soon!!



Discipline for Smoking

APSCUF has learned that at least one University is implementing a policy regarding the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act that could result in discipline for faculty members and coaches. Please be advised that APSCUF considers this enforcement policy to be invalid.

If you become aware of any disciplinary actions here at Bloomsburg University, please let us know.

Important Tax Info.

If you deduct union dues or fair share payments as an ordinary and necessary expense on your Federal Income Tax Return:

Ninety-one (91%) percent of union dues are deductible. Non-member fair share payments equate to ninety (90%) percent of union dues and all of these payments are deductible.

Committee Involvement

APSCUF/BU is often asked to appoint faculty to committees. If you are looking for involvement with a committee, please contact the APSCUF Office.



Upcoming Elections



Promotion Committee– Special Election

- ◆ Monday & Tuesday, February 23-24

APSCUF/BU Officer & Committee Election and CAP Chair Election

- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, March 11-12

Faculty & Coaches Orientation Internship Program

The orientation internship is intended for APSCUF members who have some local APSCUF responsibility and are interested in expanding a working knowledge of the union. It provides opportunities to observe the entire spectrum of union administration and interact with staff who serve in various capacities. The program is designed to provide an impetus for APSCUF members to prepare for increased local and/or state responsibilities. Internships shall be for a one-week period.

Applications for an APSCUF internship should be sent to the State APSCUF President. The APSCUF President will review applications for the internships and award them to applicants on the basis of the staff's capacity to accommodate an intern at the requested time. All applications should be submitted at least six weeks prior to the date the internship could begin.

The charge for the hotel room and meals at the hotel will be paid directly by APSCUF. An expense voucher will be used for other expenses and travel within the limits of the APSCUF per diem and travel policy up to \$500.00 per week.

Application forms are available in the BU-APSCUF office and may be obtained or requested by telephone at X 4329 or by e-mail at jbond@bloomu.edu.

State APSCUF looking for books/articles



The large conference room at the State APSCUF Office in Harrisburg has many shelves. APSCUF tries to fill these shelves with the publications of its members. They would also like recordings made of an individual APSCUF member or a group(s) that a faculty member directs or conducts.

State APSCUF would like to receive complimentary copies of books and articles written by APSCUF members and recordings performed or directed by APSCUF members, preferably signed by the author. This is an ongoing campaign that will (they hope) not only enhance the room, but also reflect in some measure the academic quality of our faculty. Letters of appreciation will acknowledge each gift.



It's CAP Time Again!

The CAP Campaign

(Committee for Action through Politics) will run from **February 1, 2009** through **April 1, 2009**. For many years, APSCUF has offered a dues rebate to its members. At the inception of the program, APSCUF asked all members to complete a dues rebate card which offered members three choices for the \$25 rebate.

- ◆ The \$25 could be given to APSCUF/CAP, the organization's political action committee
- ◆ The \$25 could be left in the APSCUF treasury
- ◆ The \$25 could be paid directly to the member

The money collected is used by APSCUF to advance the causes of higher education, the faculty and state system students by supporting candidates who are pro-education.

APSCUF cannot use membership dues funds for political action purposes; thus, the easiest way for APSCUF/CAP to obtain needed dollars is for members to designate that their dues rebate be given to CAP. The other alternatives are a direct contribution from the member to APSCUF/CAP or through payroll deduction. (Authorization cards are available in the APSCUF office)

If you have already donated your rebate to CAP, "thank you." You need not sign another card. If not, please consider designating your rebate of \$25 to CAP this time. Cards will be sent to faculty and should be returned to the APSCUF office, 14 WAB by **April 1, 2009**.



2009 State APSCUF Scholarship Program

State APSCUF is now accepting applications for their annual scholarship program. The scholarship award of \$3,000 will only be presented to one (1) eligible applicant in his/her higher education career in August, 2009. An eligible applicant must be a "family member" of an APSCUF/APSCURF member in good standing or an APSCUF staff member and must be enrolled at one of the fourteen (14) state-owned universities. **Deadline is March 6, 2009.**

For the complete application packet, go to www.apscuf.org. Just click on "Membership Services and Benefits" and select "2009 State APSCUF Scholarship Information." There you can print out the information and application. Or if you wish, you can obtain one from the APSCUF Office, WAB 14.



**VISIT OUR APSCUF/BU WEBSITE
WWW.APSCUF.ORG/BLOOMSBURG**





APSCUF THANKFUL FOR GOVERNOR'S SUPPORT OF PASSHE INSTITUTIONS DURING TOUGH TIMES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

HARRISBURG – When Governor Edward G. Rendell unveiled his 2009-10 state budget plan on Wednesday morning, the blueprint included a \$519,236,000 appropriation for the 14 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities.

Though that PASSHE appropriation figure reflects the same amount of funding that appeared in the final 2008-09 state budget, State APSCUF President Dr. Steve Hicks is pleased that PASSHE is not starting the budget process with a proposed reduction.

“We are glad to see Governor Rendell support public higher education in the Commonwealth,” Hicks said. “It’s clear the governor and other leaders recognize PASSHE’s attempts to keep tuition down and accessibility up for our current and potential students.”

The governor’s spending plan also includes \$130 million in capital funding to PASSHE next year for campus construction projects.

Tuition increases for PASSHE students in each of the last four years have been held below or near the inflation rate (averaging 2.9 percent), a record no other public university system in the nation can match.

“PASSHE’s tuition and required fee increases over the last five years have been the lowest among all public colleges and universities in the United States,” Hicks noted.

In his budget address, Governor Rendell noted that nearly every state with a budget deficit is cutting funds for higher education.

“New York will cut \$233 million from its state university system funding; Maryland cut community college funding by \$50 million; Indiana required its public colleges to cut spending by 4 percent and imposed even deeper cuts in state appropriations for these colleges,” Rendell said.

“However, we recognize that the long-term growth of our economy is tied to the success of our students, and that our state institutions of higher learning are among Pennsylvania’s largest employers. Therefore, the FY2009-2010 budget holds these schools to the same level of funding that they currently receive.”

Rendell noted that education is critical as the state and national battle a recession.

...Continued on next page

“Education is the best defense against recession,” Rendell said. “While it is true that people from all walks of life have been impacted in these tough times, it is also a fact that college graduates are faring much better than anyone else in today’s job market.”

The governor also cited a recent Associated Press statement: “A degree usually leads to higher-paying, more stable jobs. And if that job goes away, a highly educated worker can always take a step down the career ladder. When they do lose jobs, they tend to find work more quickly than others. Their wages are higher, and they typically have enough savings to survive between jobs. Yes, it still pays to get a college degree.”

In total, PASSHE universities have featured enrollment increases for 12 consecutive years – with the last seven years being all-time records. Hicks cautioned that continued enrollment growth could have negative repercussions if additional funding is not secured.

“With a continuing increase in students, a flat line appropriation means we are serving more students with the same dollars. We have to be very careful about this situation. PASSHE is charged with providing a high quality education and quality could be impacted if additional funding is not forthcoming.”

Rendell noted the importance of support to families in his address, saying, “Getting that degree, and being qualified to enter the working world, makes all the difference in our economy. And when it comes to helping young people get there, we learned from the State Board of Education hearings, we are simply not doing enough to provide students and their families that support them with the means to complete their college degrees.”

Hicks indicated that APSCUF plans to work with PASSHE and the Legislature to secure additional funding for the system.

“It is clearly in the best interest of the Commonwealth to support PASSHE’s mandate of affordable, quality public higher education,” Hicks noted. “Over 112,000 students and their families, as well as future students, are depending on our institutions to provide high quality at the lowest possible cost. We will support PASSHE’s funding request and strive to secure additional dollars to our state-owned institutions.”

Kevin P. Kodish
Director of Communications
APSCUF
319 North Front Street
PO Box 11995
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1995
Phone: 800-932-0587, ext. 3020
Fax: 717-236-1883
email: kkodish@apscuf.org

APSCUF Special Budget Alert

February 12, 2009

Governor Rendell's Proposed Budget 2009-2010 for Higher Education in Pennsylvania

The State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) received "flat" funding -- no decrease -- which makes the System a comparative winner within the higher education budgetary line items. The state-related universities (Penn State, Temple, Lincoln and Pitt) took a 6 percent cut. We plan on spending the rest of the budget season protecting PASSHE from potential budget cuts, but this is only the beginning. We need every faculty member alert and willing to contact their legislators.

The Federal Stimulus Package deal draws close

Governor Rendell's proposed budget was dependent on a lot of federal stimulus money. According to Rendell's press conference, the U.S. Senate version of the stimulus package would leave the Governor's proposed budget nearly \$500 million short, a 2 percent reduction.

PASSHE Chancellor John Cavanaugh spent the beginning of this week in Washington, D.C., in part to spend time trying to maintain higher education funding in the stimulus plan. The U.S. Senate version of the plan trims it. It seemed unlikely, according to the Chancellor, that the conferees would put the funding back in place. This was money to be used for aid for students and would have helped some of our students make the payments for college.

According to *InsideHigherEd*, even by late last night, many members of Congress still had not seen details of the compromise economic stimulus that was announced by Senate leaders on Wednesday. Though we do have several speculations on the compromise legislation and the effects on higher education funding, we will provide an update when more thorough and complete details become available.

We will try to push out emails keeping you informed as this process moves on and try to let you know the direct impact to PASSHE, and to our students and classrooms and playing fields and courts, as best we can surmise it.

Hope you have enjoyed the winter thaw --

Steve Hicks
APSCUF President

Budget Details

*Doubling of PASSHE's capital funding to \$130 million

*\$35 million increase for PHEAA tuition grants

*PASSHE levels state funding at \$519,236,000

*6 percent decrease in appropriations to state-related universities

*26.9 percent decrease in appropriations to non-preferred, state-aided colleges and universities

*10 percent decline in Institutional Assistance Grants to private universities

What can you do?

Until March 9, 2009, the members of the Pennsylvania legislature will be in their home districts. This provides an opportunity for faculty members to set up meetings with local legislators. Please understand that maintaining our current level of funding will be especially difficult this year. We **NEED** your united voices and expressed concerns to be shared with the legislature.

How to set up a legislative appointment?

Simply go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> and click into the "members" link on either the House or Senate webpage to find district office contact information. If you need assistance in scheduling the appointment, contact Laura Saccente, Assistant Director of Governmental Relations, at lsaccente@apscuf.org. Please be aware that State APSCUF can provide you with talking points and PowerPoint slides for your meeting.

Laura Saccente
Assistant Director of Governmental Relations
APSCUF
319 North Front Street
PO Box 11995
Harrisburg, PA 17108
(717) 236-7486 ext 3026
(717) 236-1883 (fax)
lsaccente@apscuf.org
www.apscuf.org