



# BU APSCUF NEWSLETTER

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



## January 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 Coffa

**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?

- ◆ 2009 STATE APSCUF Scholarship (pg. 2)
- ◆ Health & Welfare Announcement (pg. 2)
  - ◆ Upcoming Meetings (pg. 2)
  - ◆ Healthy U—Phase 2 (pg. 3)
  - ◆ Important Tax Info. (pg. 3)
  - ◆ Committee Involvement (pg. 3)
- ◆ “What Is Your Union Doing for You?” (pg. 4)
  - ◆ Coffee Nights Pictures (pg. 5)
  - ◆ 2009 APSCUF/BU Scholarship Application (pg. 6)

We are all aware that the university is undergoing reaccreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This campus wide reaccreditation process should affect every aspect of the university: every department, division, and office. A draft self study report has been released and your feedback has been solicited.

The Middle States Commission has included outcomes assessment in its standards for several decades. Since 1999, every evaluation team includes an outcomes assessment specialist. The Middle States review team is expected to evaluate our institution's comprehensive outcomes assessment plan, including goals and objectives, measurement tools, methods of improvement, and realistic timetables.

It seems academic departments and programs have accepted outcomes assessment and have incorporated this process into their routine. Although we do not have a standard across departments, we all define expectations, evaluate performance, and develop strategies to improve.

There is, however, an apparent outcomes assessment omission on campus. We do not assess management nor management offices or operations, for example, the office of the registrar, finance and business services, student life, or facilities management. I know of no outcomes assessment plan in these areas to ensure quality improvement. In fact, the Middle States Commission evaluates the shared governance process also, accountability, the role of faculty, planning and decision making, and institutional effectiveness.

Certainly shared governance and management operations affect the quality of education. These aspects of the university should be evaluated and subject to the same scrutiny and closed loop process as academic departments and programs. It appears that management has failed to conduct outcomes assessment in these critical areas. APSCUF believes that the Middle States review team will undoubtedly recognize this omission and note this inaction. We should acknowledge this exception and reaffirm the faculty's commitment to help in assessing the quality of operations, management, and shared governance. This open admission will ensure long-term accreditation and a more unified institution.

Early in the Spring semester, APSCUF will conduct a survey of management – the president, provost, deans, and vice presidents. Many may recall a similar survey that was last conducted about 6 years ago. This is not part of an outcomes assessment plan. However, we can use the results when we meet with the Middle States review team. The survey will be conducted electronically, similar to our voting procedure.

Please complete the survey, and if the opportunity arises, I urge you to openly address the lack of outcomes assessment for management, management offices, and shared governance. I believe this is the right thing to do for this institution and will serve us well for the future.

Stephen Kokoska





## 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](http://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.



## Health & Welfare Announcement

**Changes effective Jan. 1, 2009:**

1. \$50.00 deductible per person per year (up to 3 family members)
2. The Fund’s limitations and exclusions have been updated.
  - A. The Fund no longer provides reimbursement for an unlimited number of dental x-rays, and amalgam, resin., and inlay/onlay restorations.
  - B. The Schedule of Benefits also limits the number of endodontic services (root canals) that the Fund will reimburse.

## Upcoming Meetings

### General Membership Meeting

**Jan. 22, 2009 at 3:30p.m.**

**Location: Schweiker Conf. Room, AL**

**Topic: Dues Increase**— State APSCUF President, Steve Hicks and State APSCUF Treasurer, Chris Hallen will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation and discussing details about the proposed dues increase with faculty and coaches.

### APSCUF/BU Executive Board

**Mtg.**

**Friday, Jan. 23, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.**

**Location: WAB 38A**

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

## Legislative Assembly

February 5-7, 2009

Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg

April 2-4, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh—  
Southpointe, Canonsburg



# Healthy U - Phase Two

Phase Two of the Healthy U program is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2009 with the deadline for completion as of May 15, 2009.

If you and your spouse/same-sex domestic partner completed the Phase One requirements, the only requirement in Phase Two is having (or had) a **physical** exam (includes annual gyn exam) with a date of service between **July 1, 2007** through June 30, 2009 (**frequency will depend on age**). You and your spouse /same-sex domestic partner need only to log in to [www.Highmark.com](http://www.Highmark.com), go into your own account and place the date of your annual exam which, again, must fall between **July 1, 2007** through June 30, 2009 (**frequency will depend on age**). If you input this information during Phase One, technically you have completed Phase Two's requirement. However, please log back into your account at Highmark and view the tick marks to make sure the **physical** exam requirement is checked off as completed. Again, make a copy of the screen for your records.

If you and your spouse/same-sex domestic partner did not complete the Phase One requirements, **the number and spouse/same-sex domestic partner will need to accept the pledge** and complete the questionnaire along with placing the date of service for the **physical exam** which needs to fall between **July 1, 2007** through June 30, 2009 (**frequency will depend on age**).

The contribution period for Phase Two begins July 1, 2009. If Phase One and Phase Two requirements are not satisfied by May 15, 2009, your employee contribution toward health benefits will increase by 10%, making your full employee contribution 20%.

## **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.**

# What Is Your Union Doing for You?

## Frontline Faculty

APSCUF is launching an initiative for faculty members of all ranks and of all disciplines who are engaged in research that could affect state policy. APSCUF hopes to develop its own network of expertise from APSCUF membership to bring our faculty's efforts to the attention of state government officials.

There is the possibility that a faculty member could be asked to offer his/her expert testimony either locally or in Harrisburg. However, forming this network is contingent upon faculty volunteers. If you would like to be added to the APSCUF database of faculty experts, please email [jmelnichak@apscuf.org](mailto:jmelnichak@apscuf.org) with your name, contact information, campus and department information, and area of research/expertise. You will only be contacted upon a legislative research request specific to your area of policy.

If you are a faculty member who is a member of APSCUF and you are engaged in research that is regarding a subject of public interest and you would like your research to come the attention of appropriate state officials, the APSCUF Legislative Department (upon request) can act as a clearinghouse for interested faculty. The APSCUF Governmental Relations Department can provide interested faculty with the relevant contact information for legislators and/or their staff, providing information regarding House and Senate committee meetings and state agency meetings that are open to the public, and directing them to available public resources and references, if available. Please note that APSCUF's legislative priorities and initiatives, including lobbying and public policy research, are contingent upon APSCUF's Legislative Committee priorities, and APSCUF cannot assist in direct lobbying or research for any legislative or policy initiatives that the Legislative Committee has not approved. Any political positions or statements from the faculty member are strictly his/her own and are not necessarily endorsed by APSCUF.

APSCUF provides this opportunity to assist junior faculty in the tenure process and to build relations between APSCUF membership and Pennsylvania public officials. We encourage all faculty regardless of research endeavors to get to know their local legislators in their districts. Regardless of the union's lobbying contingency in Harrisburg, nothing is more powerful to legislators than hearing directly from their own local constituents.

A list of APSCUF's legislative and policy priorities can be found at [www.apscuf.org](http://www.apscuf.org) on the Legislative Page for union members to discuss with their local legislators.

# Coffee Nights

Thanks to all of you who helped out with Coffee Nights during finals week. We had a great turnout!

APSCUF/BU, along with the Library Staff Association, Friends of the Library, and The Global Awareness Society International provided free coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and cookies for students for 4 nights during the fall semester finals week.

Faculty volunteered to serve refreshments and offered tutoring and conversation to students. The event was held in the Schweiker Room in the Andruss Library. We had approximately 100+ students stop by each night!



## APSCUF/BU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Spring 2009

Bloomsburg University's chapter of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties Scholarship is awarded to a number of adults continuing their education (defined as 25 years or older) each year. Successful applicants must:

1. Be continuing their adult education, either full-time or part-time, completed two semesters (prior to application), and a minimum of nine credits.
2. Indicate financial need as demonstrated by evaluation of the Federal Student Aid application, filed by December 31, 2008.
3. Have earned at least a 2.0 grade point average as of the end of the Fall 2008 semester.
4. Demonstrate academic improvement or academic ability.
5. Submit a brief description of 200 words or less of your educational and professional goals and why they are important to you.
6. Attach two sealed recommendations, one from your academic advisor, the second from a faculty member who can speak about your academic progress.
7. Attach an unofficial transcript of your work at Bloomsburg University, including Fall 2008 semester.

Complete this application and submit it by Friday, February 6, 2009 to:

**APSCUF/BU Scholarship Committee**  
**Waller Administration Building (Room 14)**  
**Bloomsburg University**  
**Bloomsburg, PA 17815**

Scholarship recipients for Spring 2009 will be notified by Friday, February 27, 2009.

Name: _____	Age: _____
Social Security Number: _____	Graduation Date: _____
Major: _____	
Home Address: _____	_____
Local Address: _____	_____
Home and Local Phone Numbers: _____	_____