



May 2, 2011

TO: University Senate

FROM: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. *SLS*
President

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. TUITION UPDATE

There are two major initiatives getting traction in the State capitol: (1) The Chancellor has crafted legislation that has been introduced in both the Senate (Senate Bill #4709) and the Assembly (Assembly Bill #6915), which creates a rational tuition plan for all 64 campuses in the SUNY system. It calls for a 5.5% tuition increase each year for five years. In addition, the bill would require that tuition revenue be used solely to support SUNY (and not go to the general fund); would require that direct State support for SUNY remain at current levels; and would create a "locked box" so that tuition revenue could not be swept to support other State purposes. The bill is on the Senate Higher Education committee agenda for May 3. We are supporting the bill and have assisted SUNY in lining up co-sponsors in both houses.

(2) Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced his strong support for UB2020-- a complex economic development plan designed to redevelop downtown Buffalo, in part by relocating the UB campus to the downtown area of the city. This initiative includes a provision which would give UB flexibility to charge a rate of tuition higher than that at other SUNY campuses. The rate of increase currently under discussion is in the eight to nine percent range for each year of a seven-year period. The additional tuition revenue would be used to hire more research faculty, with the ultimate goal being to spur economic growth in western New York. We are in serious and productive discussions with the Governor's office and legislative leaders to make sure that Stony Brook is included in any legislation that allows for differential tuition. So far, the feedback from these discussions is positive. Obviously, the situation is very fluid, but we will keep you updated.

II. PROVOST SEARCH

The SBU Provost Search Committee interviewed a series of top candidates for the position of Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs on April 12 and 13. Several of the candidates from that group were invited to visit the campus and have been meeting with key administrators and faculty as part of the official search process. In preparation for the departure of current Provost Eric Kaler at the end of June, Dr. Nancy Squires, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been asked to serve as Interim Provost if the position is not filled by July 1. Dr. Axel Drees, a professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, will serve as Interim Dean of CAS, if it becomes necessary.

III. SBU AMONG TEN APLU INSTITUTIONS SELECTED FOR MMSI STUDY

Ten member institutions from the Association of Public and Land Grant Institutions (APLU) have been selected to participate in the APLU's Minority Male STEM Initiative (MMSI) study. Funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the overall objective of the MMSI is to enable APLU to more effectively engage member institutions in a comprehensive dialogue on the subject of minority males in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, with the goal of providing leading public higher education institutions with the tools, information, and perspectives that will assist them in identifying, retaining and graduating minority males in STEM fields. Other campuses slated to participate in the study include: the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Southern University, Florida A&M University, Salish Kootenai College, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, New Mexico State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

IV. GALA REPORT

On April 4, the University hosted its annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala, which was, once again, a great success. Our co-honorees, Julie Andrews and her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, were the perfect complement to a beautiful evening on Pier 60. As many of you know, Emma is an integral part of our MFA program. More than 700 people were in attendance and helped raise over 2.3 million dollars in support of student scholarships and the Stony Brook Children's Hospital. In addition, due to an anonymous donor, funds raised for the Children's Hospital are matched and will continue to be matched for some time to come. This year's Gala received significant publicity, both before and after the event, and helped establish it as a significant New York fundraiser.

V. PROJECT 50 FORWARD UPDATE

The design phase of Project 50 Forward (Operational Excellence) is continuing. Design teams composed of Stony Brook faculty and staff are analyzing data, gathering input and developing recommendations to improve Stony Brook's administrative processes and generate cost savings in several

areas, including: Facilities, Faculty Student Association, Finance and Budget, Human Resources, Procurement and Research Administration. The teams will present their recommendations to the Steering Committee for review. For more information about the purpose of each design team and the individuals serving on those teams, and for a list of the Operational Excellence Steering Committee members, click on the Project 50 Forward link on the SBU home page, followed by the link for “News and Announcements.”

VI. COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Stony Brook will celebrate its 51st Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, May 25, at 11 a.m. at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium by conferring degrees on those who have completed degree requirements for fall 2010, winter 2011, spring 2011, and summer 2011. The Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony are scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, at 2:00 p.m., in the Staller Center. A Baccalaureate Honors Convocation will also take place on May 24. The 7:00 p.m. ceremony will recognize candidates graduating with distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude, as well as members of Phi Beta Kappa.

As of mid-April, a total of 5,780 students (all degrees) had applied for graduation. As of April 28, some 2,440 students had indicated that they would participate in the Main Commencement Ceremony, and 117 doctoral students said they will attend the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

VII. ATHLETICS UPDATE

Women’s Basketball—Earlier this month, Stony Brook Director of the Athletics Jim Fiore announced Beth O’Boyle as the new head women’s basketball coach. O’Boyle has 12 years of collegiate coaching experience and comes to Stony Brook following four years at Canisius College, where she served as the associate head women’s basketball coach for the past two seasons. The eighth women’s basketball head coach in Stony Brook history and the fourth in the Division I era, O’Boyle was formally introduced at a press conference in the Goldstein Family Student-Athlete Development Center on Monday, April 11.

Stony Brook Men’s Lacrosse - Coach Rick Sowell and the Men’s Lacrosse team won the regular season America East Conference title after going undefeated in league play. Currently ranked #14 in the country, they will compete for the America East Conference Championship beginning this Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m., against Binghamton University at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. Should the Seawolves win, they will play this Saturday, May 7, at 3:00 p.m. again in LaValle Stadium (broadcast nationally on CBS Sports Network). The winner of the conference championship will advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Stony Brook Women's Outdoor Track and Field - Coach Andy Ronan and the Seawolves wrapped up competition at the prestigious Penn Relays this weekend with a win and two school records. The women's college 4x800, consisting of senior Lucy Van Dalen (Wanganui, New Zealand), junior Page Price (Tampa, Fla.), junior Mary O'Connor (Waterford, Ireland) and junior Kristal Conklin (Middletown, N.Y.) won the event. This was the second year in a row that Stony Brook has won an event at this extremely competitive event.

Stony Brook Baseball - Coach Matt Senk got the team off to an incredible 30-10 start with an 11-2 record in the America East. Currently in first place, the baseball team has not played a game at home this season due to construction on Joe Nathan Field. With the construction project close to completion, the Seawolves look to host the final series of the regular season at Joe Nathan Field the weekend of May 20-21. Should the team finish the regular season in first place, they will also host the conference tournament on campus during Memorial Day weekend. The winner of the conference championship will advance to the Regional Round of the NCAA College World Series.