Faculty Senate Fall Plenary
October 2013

Statement from Robert Haelen, Interim CFO

2014-15 Budget Request Preview

The SUNY Board of Trustees will meet on November 15; at that time, we anticipate they will approve the University's 2014-15 Budget Request for submission to the Division of the Budget. The Governor's budget recommendation will be released by January 21, with a final budget agreement between the Governor and the Legislature due by April 1, 2014.

While the New York State and national economies have improved, we still have not returned to pre-recession levels and fiscal challenges remain. It is not yet clear what impact the federal government shutdown will have, for either SUNY or the economy in general. According to the first quarter New York State financial update (issued in July 2013), the budget gap for 2014-15 is now projected at $1.7 billion, with budget gaps for 2015-16 and 2016-17 projected at approximately $2.9B each year.

The University's 2014-15 budget request will seek support for costs-to-continue, including:

- State support for collective bargaining increases such as the recently ratified University Union Professionals (UUP) contract;
- State support for other non-personnel related inflationary increases; and
- Spending authority for campus-generated revenue increases (including the increase in revenue due to the higher tuition rates approved through the rational tuition policy).

There will also be a request for funding for targeted investments. The University will seek support for Downstate and Long Island College Hospital consistent with the sustainability plan which has been accepted by the Executive and the Legislature.

In addition, the University will request funding for a multi-year capital investment to address backlog and renewal needs at our facilities. We will advance capital investment for targeted projects that could further SUNY's core educational, research, and economic development goals.

There will also be a request for a base aid increase for the 30 community colleges.

Detailed information on the University's formal budget request will be available on the SUNY website following the board meeting.

Robert Haelen assumed the Interim Chief Financial Officer role in August 2013; he will also continue to serve as Vice Chancellor for Capital Facilities and General Manager for the State University Construction Fund (SUCF). Brian Hutzley has been appointed as Vice Chancellor for Shared Services and Regional Economic Development.