



## SUNY could see upside to downturn

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Could New York's fiscal nightmare lead to higher tuition for its public college students?

SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Carl Hayden argues it will offer the state university system an "unprecedented opportunity to secure a rational tuition policy."

"Small, predictable increases permit parents and students to plan and permit SUNY colleges and universities to hire more faculty and expand access," Hayden wrote in an e-mail exchange with Campus Notebook.

In November, SUNY's proposed budget called for a 5 percent tuition hike, which would have been the first in five years. It went nowhere.

(Not much of a re-election platform for lawmakers: "Vote for me! I raised your kid's tuition!")

But here's how Hayden speculated things might play out: The state, facing a \$6.4 billion deficit, won't be able to fund an endowment for SUNY and CUNY. It won't be able to hire thousands of professors, as recommended in the final report of a recent higher education commission. And it won't be able to boost operating aid.

In this environment, Hayden said, "even legislators historically opposed to a rational tuition policy may change their view." He added, "SUNY is the only real economic engine we have upstate (did someone say Nanotech at UAlbany). Without tuition, we will stagnate. That is hardly a platform that anyone wants to run on."

### Classes on the Internet

The New York Times recently reported that as fuel prices rise "thousands of students nationwide have suddenly decided to take college classes over the Internet."

Locally, the Sage After Work program is adding 10 online classes to meet the demand. New fall course titles range from Political Campaign Process to Advanced Computer Literacy. Check the full list at <http://www.sage.edu>.

### Notes on personnel

Some comings and goings:

Gregory N. Mandel, a prominent intellectual property specialist who was cited in U.S. Supreme Court briefs last year, has left Albany Law School for Temple Law School. In Albany, he had been a professor and associate dean for research and scholarship.

Brian M. Durant has been appointed dean for student affairs at Adirondack Community College in Queensbury. He previously worked at Sage College of Albany.

The Rev. Jim Toal is leaving Siena College after serving as vice president for over a decade. He will become guardian of a friary in St. Petersburg, Fla.

### Music at museum

Colleges are in summer mode, but they're still hosting some events. One of them is the "Upbeat on the Roof" summer music series at Skidmore's Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery.

On Friday, check out the Dixieland and jazz of Reggie's Red Hot Footwarmers.' The free, open-to-the-public concert begins

at 7 p.m. on the museum's rooftop.

Law school debate

Deans of the law schools in Albany and Buffalo have criticized proposals to create three new law schools in New York, and the Erie County Bar Association has also come out against the plan. So where does the Albany County Bar Association stand?

"We have not taken a position on that yet," said Patrick J. Higgins, the association's president.

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