



**Poll: More New Yorkers rate Cuomo favorably**

A majority of New Yorkers favorably view Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his proposed executive budget and said the state is on the right track for the first time since 2007, according to a Siena Research Institute poll of registered voters released Monday.  
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**Carl Strock**  
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# Editorial: Let SUNY schools raise tuition

Monday, February 14, 2011

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At budget hearings last week, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher resisted the apocalyptic rhetoric favored by faculty union representatives and, while recognizing the state's fiscal crisis, asked the Legislature not to cut SUNY's budget again — at least not so deeply. If Gov. Cuomo's \$362 million in proposed cuts are adopted, she pointed out, the public colleges and universities will have absorbed \$1.5 billion in cuts over the last four years, about a third of their state funding.

Meanwhile, their ability to raise revenue themselves was constrained by the Legislature, which approved only one tuition increase during that time and then took much of the money for use outside the state university system. In light of all this, Zimpher's main pitch last week, to establish a predictable, five-year tuition plan that would provide new revenue for schools and allow students and parents to prepare in advance for tuition increases, makes sense.

SUNY's tuition is now \$4,970 a year, plus mandatory fees that average \$1,235. This is still far below private universities, and below most public ones. And the state's Tuition Assistance Program pays for part of the bill, from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$3,280.

Cuomo's budget proposal leaves TAP alone, which is good. But his decision not to include a tuition increase in his budget isn't good, even for students. They may be able to go to school, but they may not be able to get the programs they want, or quality instructors and courses. And they know that, in a year or two, they could face a 20 percent to 30 percent tuition hike, as happened most of the 13 times the Legislature has raised tuition in the last 48 years (while other students have gone through their entire four years without a tuition hike).

Zimpher's plan for regular increases, with a cap, is better and fairer, which is why the SUNY Student Assembly has endorsed it. The Legislature should approve that plan, and keep its hands off the money.

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**Poll**

Which Grammy Awards performance was your favorite?

- Arcade Fire
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- Eminem & Dr. Dre
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- Lady Gaga
- Mick Jagger

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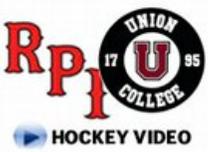
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Union 6, Colgate 3 posted Feb. 13, 2011



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## Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ashley Sofia and Saul Kurtz	Moon & River Cafe 8 p.m. Free
Colour Revolt, with Neighborhood Make Believe, Barons in the Attic	Valentine's 7 p.m.
Open mike night	Emack & Bolio's 7 p.m. Free
Dance Night: lessons and open dancing	Randy Loren's Dolce Vita Ristorante 7:30 p.m. Free
Open mike with host Pete Pashoukos	Gaffney's Restaurant 9 p.m. Free

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