A History of Rational Tuition

Stacey B. Hengsterman
Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations
Student Assembly Fall Conference
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From 1992 to 2010, tuition hikes ranged anywhere from 43% to 7%, when students could least afford it.
Changes Were Unpredictable

- Over 48 years SUNY was only allowed to raise tuition 13 times
- Smallest increase was 7 percent ($310) in 2009-2010
- Highest increase was 43 percent ($650) in 1991-1992

17 times since 1963, a first-year student entered SUNY and during his or her college career never had to pay a tuition increase

19 entering classes saw one tuition increase

8 entering classes saw two tuition increases

3 increases were imposed on the class entering in 1989-90
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>$16,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of New Hampshire</td>
<td>$16,552</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Vermont</td>
<td>$16,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Illinois*</td>
<td>$15,602</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>$13,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>$13,683</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMASS Amherst</td>
<td>$13,258</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California-Berkeley</td>
<td>$12,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
<td>$12,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Delaware</td>
<td>$12,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Institute of Technology</td>
<td>$11,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Connecticut</td>
<td>$10,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Maine</td>
<td>$10,604</td>
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<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>$9,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>University at Buffalo</td>
<td>$8,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binghamton University</td>
<td>$8,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University at Albany</td>
<td>$8,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony Brook University</td>
<td>$8,431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Already the Lowest (Comprehensives)

- Keen State College (NH): $12,864
- Eastern Connecticut State University: $9,376
- Slippery Rock Univ. Of Pennsylvania: $9,369
- Western Connecticut State University: $9,077
- Black Hills State University (SD): $8,817
- Salem State College (MA): $8,646
- Minnesota State University-Moorhead: $8,053
- Virginia State University: $8,002
- Frostburg State University (MD): $7,982
- Cortland: $7,719
- Geneseo: $7,647
- Rhode Island College: $7,602
- Brockport: $7,562
- Plattsburgh: $7,509
AND, State support was dropping!
Sounds bad, right?

- Stony Brook Southampton
- Program deactivations
  - Albany
  - Geneseo
  - SUNYIT
  - New Paltz
  - Many more were under consideration
- Course sections reduced, class sizes increased
- Full time faculty positions left vacant; more reliance on adjunct
- Faculty
- State operated enrollment decrease – first since 2003
MEMORANDUM

March 22, 2011

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor
Subject: Pursuit of a Five-Year Tuition Plan

Action Requested

The proposed resolution delegates to the Chancellor the authority to pursue, in the context of the current year budget process, a five-year tuition plan for resident undergraduate tuition at the State University of New York that is fair, predictable and responsible.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the State University of New York already...
We had one!

- **Fair** because it protects access and affordability through modest increases;

- **Predictable** because it allows students and families to plan over a 5 year time period; and

- **Responsible** because through a “maintenance of effort” construct, all the tuition would be invested in faculty, programs and curriculum that would enhance completion.
And so we started to advocate

AT LAST, A TUITION PLAN ALL NEW YORKERS CAN AGREE ON

Fair. Predictable. Responsible.
The five-year rational tuition plan endorsed by SUNY’s students, faculty, administration, trustees, and a majority of New Yorkers, has been submitted as legislation in both the Assembly and Senate.

✉️ Urge your legislators to support A.6915/S.4709 today.
Student Assembly was our PARTNER
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FIVE-YEAR TUITION PLAN FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the mission of YOUR CAMPUS is to ______, and

WHEREAS, The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, educating more than 467,000 students in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses with more than 2.5 million alumni around the globe; and

WHEREAS, SUNY has the potential to create unprecedented opportunities not just for college students and their families, but for faculty and staff, businesses and industry, and the workforce of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, New York has done an outstanding job of limiting reliance on tuition to support SUNY’s operations – holding tuition at $4,970 per year – among the lowest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the means by which this tuition rate has been achieved are anything but fair, SUNY having been allowed to raise tuition only 13 times over the last 48 years – the smallest of which was 7 percent and the highest of which was 43 percent; and

WHEREAS, a five-year tuition plan that is fair, equitable and responsible and keeps tuition revenues with SUNY will provide students and their families the ability to adequately plan ahead and SUNY campuses with predictable revenue; and

WHEREAS, it is unwaveringly clear that the past, present, and future of New York State is uniquely tied to its State University; and

WHEREAS, SUNY must have and be able to provide fiscal stability to carry out this responsibility;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that YOUR CAMPUS hereby supports the State University’s proposal for the enactment of a five-year tuition plan that will provide students and their families predictability and stability.
SUNY Students Renew Push for Rational Tuition and Other Reforms

Contact: Kyle J. Hill
Interim Director of Communications
khill@studentassembly.org, 631-275-2354

For Immediate Release: Sunday, January 16, 2011

Rochester – State University of New York students this weekend called for the implementation of a rational tuition plan, restoration of community college base aid, expansion of the Tuition Assistance Program, and a maintenance of effort agreement with
And then we got more support

Open Letter to the New York State Legislature

Great cities, great states, and great nations need great universities.

Representing many of New York’s corporations, employers and labor unions, we applaud and endorse The Power of SUNY, the new strategic plan launched by Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and the campus presidents of the State University of New York.

The Power of SUNY commits SUNY’s spirit of innovation, rich diversity of campuses and vast human capital to drive New York’s economic recovery and create a better future for every community.

The Power of SUNY is New York’s vehicle for economic recovery and the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act is the license to drive.

The Empowerment Act harnesses high impact, zero cost solutions to the state’s financial crises. It will create jobs, build the foundation for tomorrow’s economy and strengthen public higher education.

If there were ever a time for New York State to embrace bold new ideas and creative solutions, it is this time, with this Chancellor and this SUNY.

Join us in supporting The Power of SUNY by passing the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.

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Open Letter to Legislators

Respect and enthusiasm that we applaud SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher on the launch of The Power of SUNY’s economy and enhanced quality of life in our communities.

Chancellor Zimpher has unveiled focuses squarely on how New York can best utilize SUNY to boost development. We believe this plan lays out an important vision of how public higher education can help us need to secure passage of the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act that harnesses high impact, zero cost solutions that will create jobs, build the foundation for tomorrow’s economy and strengthen public higher education.

The State University of New York estimates that over the next ten years, its campuses will create 10,000 new jobs and invest over $3.5 billion in capital construction, which will support over 300 indirect construction jobs.

Business, local government, and industry and as citizens of New York State, we strongly urge you to help unleash The Power of SUNY by passing the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.
It started to work!

Press & Sun-Bulletin
State Must Allow SUNY to Thrive

The New York Times
A Chance to Rebuild SUNY

Democrat Chronicle.com
Act Rationally to Control Tuition Hikes
SUNY Students Need Predictable, Fair Increase

The Buffalo News
Implementing a Rational Tuition Policy Makes Sense
Finally, NYSUNY 2020 became reality

THANK YOU NEW YORK!

Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature have agreed to a fair, predictable, and responsible tuition plan that will benefit all New Yorkers while protecting the access and affordability our students deserve.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RATIONAL TUITION
SUNY Students Make History as Rational Tuition Becomes Law

For Immediate Release: Friday, June 24, 2011
Contact: Ari Saati, Director of Communications; asaati@studentassembly.org; 518.588.9279

ALBANY – SUNY students can claim victory today as their proposal for a rational tuition plan is about to become law with the passage of a bill in both houses, based on an agreement reached by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the leadership of the New York State Legislature.

The bill brings an end to the unpredictable “tuition roulette” that has plagued students and their families for years. Completely in line with the Student Assembly’s legislative agenda for this session, tuition will now raise an average of 5.4 percent ($300) each year for the next five years – .1 percent less than their actual request of 5.5 percent.

“This bill brings rationality to the SUNY tuition system, by allowing students and parents to reasonably plan for the future, instead of being subject to dramatic tuition increases and uncertainty,” said Governor Cuomo in a statement.
What did it mean?

Not only did we achieve Rational Tuition, SUNY gained...

- Maintenance of Effort
- Challenge Grants
- Tuition Credits

And, eventually with START-UP NY, the last facet of PHEEIA...

- Public-Private Partnerships
Rational Tuition

The SUNY Board of Trustees was authorized to increase tuition each year for 5 years up to $300 for in-state, undergraduate tuition at state-operated campuses.

From 1992 to 2010, tuition hikes ranged anywhere from 43% to 7%, when students could least afford it.
Maintenance of Effort

The State committed to maintain SUNY’s funding while Rational Tuition was in effect. This preserved budgets from year to year and ensured students were not back-filling cuts.
Tuition Credits

Because Rational Tuition would bring SUNY’s tuition rates over the maximum TAP awards for in-need students, it was agreed that SUNY would cover that difference.
SUNY Remains Affordable

SUNY Campus Weighted Average In-State Tuition and Fees
Proposed 2014/15 SUNY vs. 2013/14 Selected Peer States

SUNY Remains Affordable
Has this really benefitted students?

25% of in-state undergraduate Rational Tuition revenues have supported students through Tuition Credits.
Has this really benefitted students?

520 additional instructional staff hired
Has this really benefitted students?

270 of those were full-time faculty
Has this really benefitted students?

100 new degree programs at state-operated campuses reflecting high-need fields
So why should we do this again?

SUNY is on the right path.

We need to protect our progress.

Students need to know what their education will cost.

The value of your degree will continue to increase.
So why should we do this again?

ACCESS [Affordability]

+ 

COMPLETION [More Faculty, More Programs]

= 

SUCCESS [Better Careers, Less Debt]
A History of Rational Tuition

Stacey B. Hengsterman
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