



**To: All Geneseo students, faculty, and staff
General Public
NYS Governor-Elect, Andrew Cuomo
NYS Assembly Speaker, Sheldon Silver
NYS Assembly Chairperson on Higher Education, Deborah Glick
NYS Senate Chairperson on Higher Education, Toby-Ann Stavisky**

From: SUNY Geneseo Undergraduate Student Association

Date: December 1st, 2010

Re: Resolution on budget cuts by the State of New York

The recent elimination of the Communicative Disorders and Sciences, Studio Art, and Computer Science programs by SUNY Geneseo is a truly tragic event that will have repercussions on the college for years to come. We would like to recognize the extensive efforts that the administration has made up until now to minimize the effects of the SUNY budget cuts on college operations. It is because of these continued cuts to the college's budget that these program eliminations have been put in place.

In the interest of halting any further program shutdowns and in the hope that one day those programs which have been shutdown are re-instated, the Undergraduate Student Association of SUNY Geneseo calls for the following:

- 1) An immediate cessation by the State of New York on future cuts to SUNY,
- 2) Restoration of the hundreds of millions of dollars cut from SUNY over the past few years,
- 3) Imposition of a Rational Tuition Policy and an end to the raising of SUNY tuition as a tradeoff for lowering State support,
- 4) The passage of legislation including a "Maintenance of Effort" provision in order to ensure consistent state funding for SUNY,
- 5) And the suspension of Bundy Aid with those funds being diverted to SUNY instead of the budgets of private universities.

These provisions are essential if SUNY Geneseo as well as other SUNY schools from across the state are to continue to function as institutions of higher education. State politicians must recognize that SUNY is not simply a department from which money can be cut. We are a premier public higher education institution in this country created to offer **quality** education at an **affordable** price. These cuts, as well as future cuts put those two missions in jeopardy. They also risk New York State falling behind other states in terms of the education of its citizenry, innovation, and technical expertise. It is widely recognized that education is one of the most effective drivers of economic growth. Therefore, these budget cuts threaten to ruin the state's long term economic prospects if not reversed. New York State is recognized as having one of the most competitive and distinguished public liberal arts colleges in the country at SUNY Geneseo. The state will soon lose that honor if these cuts are allowed to continue.

It is the duty of our state politicians to stop undue harm from happening to the state of New York. That is exactly what will happen if these provisions are not met and our schools continue to slide towards insolvency. Effective action has not been taken by the current legislature and governor which is unacceptable. We call on all our state legislators especially the Assembly Higher Education Committee Chairperson Deborah Glick, Senate Higher Education Committee Chairperson Toby-Ann Stavisky, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, and Governor-Elect Andrew Cuomo to recognize our concerns and pass legislation to implement them. This should be the first priority of new State legislature and governor if they truly care about the future of our state.

Passed 12/1/10 by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0 of the Student Association Executive Committee

The concerns of the SUNY Geneseo Undergraduate Student Association are non-partisan and do not reflect a preference for any particular political organization or individual