

November 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D. *SLS*
President

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. BUDGET UPDATE

At the very end of this year's legislative session, authority was provided to the Governor to implement an additional \$250 million budget reduction by cutting state agency spending. Unfortunately, we very recently learned that the Governor's office/the Division of the Budget has allocated to SUNY and CUNY a portion of that \$250 million cut. For SUNY, it amounts to another \$23,250,000 funding reduction against the current year spending plan. For Stony Brook, the cut is \$3,286,600 in base state funds, effective immediately.

Although this mid-year cut was not necessarily unexpected, it is a sobering reminder that New York State and the nation have not yet extricated themselves from the grips of the recession. The total cuts to Stony Brook since the start of the 2008-09 fiscal year now total over \$62 million. The Division of the Budget has indicated that there will be no more additional cuts this year. We are currently completing final accounting analysis of the recently closed 2009-10 fiscal year and updating projections for 2010-11. The Budget Working Group will be reviewing this data shortly and recommending alternatives for my consideration. You will recall that earlier this fall, after allocating \$20 million in cuts to operating units (in two phases), we deferred action on an additional \$10 million in cuts in hopes of a tuition increase or other fiscal improvements.

II. PROJECT 50 FORWARD

- **Operational Excellence**--Stony Brook is 70% of the way through the diagnostic phase of our Operational Excellence program. During this phase, a fact base is being gathered of our University operations. This information has been gleaned through faculty and staff surveys, interviews, benchmarking, and cost and performance information. We are identifying opportunities from this base to recommend areas and procedures to be revamped and revised to reduce our operating costs. There has been strong participation in these activities from Stony Brook faculty and staff. In particular, more than 1,300 faculty and staff participated in the organizational effectiveness survey and more than 200 employees helped build organization charts and activity assessments across the University.

Although the Operational Excellence diagnostic phase is not yet complete, the Steering Committee is able to share three preliminary findings:

1. Stony Brook is relatively lean in administrative areas compared with those of other universities
2. Stony Brook has the opportunity to save between 5% and 9% of University dollars spent each year on purchasing goods and services
3. Stony Brook has opportunities to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of many departments by streamlining processes, clarifying decision-making, and optimizing organizational structures

The final element of the diagnostic phase involves conducting faculty and student focus groups. These will take place in late November and will review the following five areas: Information Technology, Purchasing, Facilities, Administration (Finance/HR) and Revenue opportunities.

The second phase of the program is the design phase. It will utilize faculty and staff teams to provide detailed

recommendations and solutions to help cut costs and increase revenues. We look forward to keeping you up to date on our progress, and appreciate all of your participation and input thus far.

- **Faculty Focus Groups**—Faculty participation is encouraged in a series of focus groups which will provide input to the Project 50 Forward Steering Committee. Volunteers are being asked to serve on one of four focus groups that will provide input related to procurement, facilities, administrative services or revenue opportunities.

III. **SIMONS CENTER FOR GEOMETRY AND PHYSICS**

We are all excited about the **Building Inauguration Celebration for the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics** that is scheduled this week and begins with the building inauguration on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 4:00 p.m. The Building Inauguration Conference will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 3, starting at 9:00 a.m., in the SCGP Auditorium and the University community is invited to an Open House and Self-Guided Tours on Friday, November 5, 2010 from 1 pm - 4pm.

IV. **CIO SEARCH**

We have received nearly 350 applications in response to our position announcement for the University's Chief Information Officer. The campus-based search committee, which is chaired by Dr. Craig Lehmann, Professor and Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management, is finalizing its review of the applications and is working to identify its first round of candidates for interviews. The Committee expects to recommend three finalists for the position by the end of the month.

V. **WELLNESS U.**

A University-wide committee has been appointed to develop a new innovative health and wellness initiative, **Wellness U.**, which integrates the missions of the University and the Medical Center to encourage healthy lifestyles and foster a sense of community across campuses. The committee is chaired by Bruce Solomon, Chief Operating Officer of the SBU Medical Center. The program

will combine the unique talents and resources of SBU, SBUMC, SOM, SHTM and the Dental School to offer our faculty and other employees a comprehensive wellness program. It will promote the overall health and wellbeing of the University community, encourage safety, and provide easier access to a wide variety of healthy lifestyle resources. Currently, the committee is conducting an inventory of existing health and wellness programs and activities on the East and West campuses and will be surveying the University community in the coming weeks to determine what other health and wellness offerings might be of interest.

VI. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

At the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 new gifts and commitments totaled \$8.6 million. This compares to \$3.4 million for the same time period last year. Total gifts from alumni are also up 13.6% over the previous year.

Two seven-figure gifts of note have been booked this year—a \$2 million gift to the Louis and Beatrice Lauer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology and \$2.25 million to the Dublin Family Athletic Performance Center. Both gifts were part of larger pledge commitments for these centers.

Homecoming, which was held on October 9, was a great success, with about 1,500 attendees, doubling last year's participation. There are several upcoming events of note. The Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner is scheduled for November 4, where five of our best will be honored. Finally, please save the date, April 4, for the annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala to be held at Pier Sixty in Manhattan. This event raised more than \$2 million for undergraduate scholarships last year.

VII. FACULTY AWARDS/RECOGNITION

➤ SBU MENTORS

Forty-five (45) high school students who worked with Stony Brook University faculty mentors were recently announced as regional finalists (18) and/or semifinalists (27) in the 2010 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and

Technology—one of the top nationwide research competitions for high school researchers. Many of the competition winners participated in summer research programs offered at Stony Brook, including the Garcia Center for Polymers at Engineered Interfaces program and/or the Simons Summer Research Program. Thirty of the awardees (21 semifinalists and 9 regional finalists) were mentored by **Miriam Rafailovich of Materials Science & Engineering** who is one of the nation's leading mentors of research competition talent and has formed collaborative, interdisciplinary networks with faculty across campus. Other faculty engaged in mentoring Siemens regional finalists and/or semifinalists include: **Benjamin Chu** of Chemistry; **Liliana Davalos** of Ecology & Evolution; **Peter Gergen** and **Robert Haltiwanger** of Biochemistry & Cell Biology; **Benjamin Hsiao**, **Iwao Ojima**, and **Carlos Simmerling** of Chemistry; **Jonathan Sokolov** of Materials Science & Engineering; and **Wei Zhu** of Applied Mathematics whose students worked in collaboration with **Ellen Li** of Medicine.

➤ **RECENT NIH AWARDS**

Congratulations are extended to **Dr. Danny Bluestein, Professor of Biomedical Engineering**, who was recently awarded a five-year, \$7.5 million grant by the National Institutes of Health. This award marks the first time a Stony Brook professor has received a Phase II Quantum Grant, given by The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), a division of the NIH, to make a profound improvement—or quantum leap forward—in health care. Dr. Bluestein's project involves testing and optimizing the designs of various cardiovascular devices with the goal to eliminate the need for anticoagulation therapy for patients with these devices.

We also wish to congratulate **Dr. Balaji Sitharaman, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering**, as a 2010 recipient of the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, which includes a 5-year \$1.5 million grant. Dr. Sitharaman is engineering a nanotechnology-based theranostic

(integrating therapeutic and diagnostic) technology for combined non-invasive imaging and targeted treatment of bone loss and is among a select group of early-career biomedical researchers nationwide to receive this award. The NIH Director's New Innovative Award was created as part of the NIH's commitment to increasing opportunities for new scientists who are exceptionally creative and propose highly innovative research projects.

VIII. SELECT CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

- **The Faculty Achievement Dinner** is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Watermill Inn. This dinner recognizes faculty who have been the recipient of prestigious national and international fellowships, honors, and awards during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). This is a "by invitation" dinner.

- **Veteran's Day Ceremony**—The Long Island State Veterans Home will be celebrating Veteran's Day on Wednesday, November 10, at 10:00 AM in their Multipurpose Room. This one-hour event will celebrate the service of our veterans and will include a keynote address from New York State Senator John Flanagan as well as an intergenerational program with students from New Lane Elementary School. Also attending the ceremony will be the Army National Guard, who will be doing a display of their vehicles after the conclusion of the ceremony. The event is open to all members of the Stony Brook University campus community.

- **Advanced Energy Conference**--The **Advanced Energy Conference**, which is produced by the SBU Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC), is scheduled for Nov. 8-9 at the Hilton New York in New York City. Now in its fourth year, the Conference is one of the largest such events in the country, with more than 400 Clean Energy businesses from across New York expected to participate.

- **Portrait Unveiling**—The **unveiling of the official portrait of former President Shirley Strum Kenny** is scheduled for Friday, November 12 in the Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library Atrium. The reception begins at 5 p.m., with remarks and the portrait unveiling set for 5:30 p.m.

IX. ATHLETICS

- **Football:** Coach Priore and the Stony Brook football team currently sit atop the Big South Conference standings at 3-0, tied with Liberty University. The team beat Charleston Southern 41-21 this past Saturday in front of our Parent's Weekend home crowd. Running back Miguel Maysonet (Riverhead, NY) set a stadium record with 4 touchdowns while fellow running back Brock Jakolski (Shirley, NY) rushed for 183 yards and one touchdown. The talented pair lead the conference in touchdowns at 9 and 8 respectively. Stony Brook's next game is Saturday at conference foe Presbyterian College.
- **Women's Cross Country:** Coach Ronan and Assistant Coach Stephen Walsh were named America East Conference Coaching Staff of the Year after earning their fourth straight conference championship this past weekend in Boston. Senior twins Lucy and Holly VanDalen (Wanganui, New Zealand) finished the race in 1st and 2nd respectively (one second apart). The team will now advance to the NCAA Regional race where a top 2 finish will send the team to the NCAA National Championship race in Indiana later this month.
- **Men's Soccer:** Coach Cesar Markovic and the men's soccer team finished the regular season in third place with an overall record of 9-6-3. They will now host a first round conference championship game at LaValle Stadium next Saturday, November 6th at 5pm against 6th-seed University of Vermont.

- **Volleyball:** Following two important wins this past weekend over the University of New Hampshire (3-0) and Providence College (3-0), Coach Matejka-DesLauriers and the Seawolves are currently in fourth place in the conference standings headed into the final 2 weeks of conference play. The top four teams will advance to the America East Conference Championships.

- **Women's Soccer:** Coach Sue Ryan and the women's soccer team finished the regular season in second place before falling to the University of Maine in the America East Conference Championships this past Sunday in the semi-final round of the conference tournament. Junior Dominique Adamo (Ramsey, NJ) was a first team all-conference selection while Junior Alexis Lindo (York, PA) was second team and freshman starting goalkeeper Chelsea Morales (Temecula, CA) was named all-Rookie.

- **Men's and Women's Basketball:** The NCAA basketball season opens on Friday, November 12th. The Stony Brook men will open on the road in Storrs, CT against the University of Connecticut while the women will open in Elon, NC with games against Troy and Fordham Universities. The men return to Pritchard Gymnasium that same weekend for their home opener on Sunday, November 14th against Mt. Ida College at 2:00pm.