**EDITORIAL** 

# Legislators should keep Ul funding in mind

University of Illinois
Day in Springfield,
and students, professors,
administrators and others will
travel to the Capitol Building
and make a pitch to legislators
on behalf of the University. Last
year, close to 200 individuals
made the trek, and numerous
participants — including former
University president B. Joseph
White — hailed its success.

And while the University did receive a 1 percent increase in last year's state budget appropriation, successes since then have seemingly disappeared.

The state owes the University nearly \$490 million. The UI Extension program is cutting positions and closing over a dozen offices. Various colleges, degrees and scholarships are undergoing close financial scrutiny, important renovation projects on campus are being put off and Interim President Stanley Ikenberry is predicting a 9.5 percent tuition increase. As this year's U of I Day approaches, it certainly seems like members of the General Assembly are way overdue for another reminder about the importance of funding higher education.

However, we can't help but wonder if this kind of lobby effort will really have any effect on the University's financial situation. There's no question that many headed to Springfield on Wednesday will be passionate. But even with a strong turnout, no one is going to become an expert lobbyist in one day. The reality is that legislators are already inundated with their own pet projects, political careers and yes, other lobby efforts, all the time. Combine that with the fact that the state itself is billions of dollars in debt and the U.S. economy is still climbing out of

recession. All kinds of social services and interest groups are vying for funds. Those heading over to Springfield have the right idea, but they'll see that they're not the only ones trying to make their presence felt by lawmakers.

Still, lawmakers should know that funding the University benefits them and their constituents. Higher education produces new research and technology. It provides innovation and employment opportunities for individuals from in-state, out-of-state and around the world.

As we've said in the past, cuts to higher education should

## The Daily Illini Editorial Board

Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the board, which comprises:

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only be used as a last resort, and legislators shouldn't need a special contingent to tell them that the University is important. The University of Illinois must be a priority in the legislators' minds every day.



### City prepares for massive Statehouse rally

# By DEANA POOLE (deana.poole@sj-r.com) THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

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About 15,000 people from across Illinois are expected to descend on downtown Springfield Wednesday in what's being billed as one of the largest demonstrations ever at the Capitol.

The city will close several streets, or reduce lanes, to accommodate the crowd. Streets should reopen by 4 p.m. Extra Capitol police will be on bond if needed

State employees have been told it will be "virtually impossible" to leave the Capitol complex by car between noon and 1:30 p.m.

The secretary of state's office also is urging Springfield residents to use offices on Dirksen Parkway or Klein Street for driver services instead of going to the Howlett Building.

The "Save Our State" rally and march, scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., is sponsored by the Responsible Budget Coalition, which includes 200 organizations from across the state.

More than 250 buses are expected to bring thousands of people to Springfield to participate in the rally from across Illinois.

"We tried to make it as big and as large as possible to get people's attention," said John Bouman, president of the Shriver Center in Chicago, which is part of the Responsible Budget Coalition.

Protesters want legislators to pass a responsible budget, which Bouman said must include "significant new revenue."

"It's also to try to impress on legislators it's not acceptable to do a half measure and go home and wait until after the (Nov. 2) election, that this thing has to be fixed. It has to be solved now," he said, referring to the state's multibillion-dollar budget deficit, which is delaying payments to schools, social service agencies and other organizations that get funding from the state.

"The longer we wait, the worse it gets, the higher the casualty count in terms of people and organizations and institutions and needs unmet," Bournan said.

Representatives of about 100 organizations will attend, he said, including the Illinois Education Association, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Organizers anticipate the crowd to include 14,000 to 15,000 people, including 4,000 members of the IEA. Another 3,000 AFSCME members are expected to participate, said Anders Lindall, spokesman for AFSCME Council 31.

"I think it's a testament to the scale of the budget disaster and the terrible harm to these jobs and services that are needed now more than ever in this recession that so many folks from all over Illinois are coming together for this tremendous event," Lindall said.

A stage will be set up at Second Street and Capitol Avenue, where nine people are scheduled to speak. Afterward, a march is planned around the Capitol complex.

The march is expected to begin at Second and Capitol, proceed south on Second to Edwards Street, west on Edwards to College Street, north on College to Monroe Street, east on Monroe to Second and south on Second to back to Capitol Avenue.

Following the march, some participants will return to the stage areas, while others will try to go inside the Statehouse to meet with legislators, Bouman said.

The secretary of state's office wants to make sure the event is injury-free.

"There's obvious issues about all 15,000 coming into the Capitol building at once," said Henry Haupt, spokesman for the secretary of state. He said the fire marshal would have a problem with that many people in the building.

Dodie Stannard, who is with the state's special events division, said a few extra Capitol police details will be on hand for the event. City police will be available if needed, but none have been assigned to provide crowd control or security, said Ernie Slottag, the city's spokesman.

Deana Poole can be reached at 788-1533.

#### Traffic changes planned

Several streets near the Capitol will be closed or have reduced lanes to accommodate crowds expected for Wednesday's Statehouse budget rally. The streets are scheduled to reopen by 4 p.m.

#### Street changes

- \* Capitol Avenue -- closed at 6 p.m. Tuesday between Second and Third streets.
- \* Monroe Street between Second and Pasfield streets the south parking lane and next two driving lanes will be closed at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday for bus drop-off. The north parking lane and driving lane will remain open for traffic use.
- \* Second Street between Monroe and Jackson streets will be closed at 9 a.m. Wednesday
- \* Second to Edwards, Edwards to College, College to Monroe and Monroe to Second will be closed at noon to allow for a march around the Capitol complex.

#### Rally speakers

- \* William McNary, co-director, Citizen Action/Illinois
- \* Henry Bayer, executive director, AFSCME Council 31
- \* Maria Whelan, president, Illinois Action for Children.
- \*Tamika Chism of Shorewood, parent user of early intervention services and child care
- \* Ken Swanson, president, Illinois Education Association
- \* Ed Geppert, president, Illinois Federation of Teachers
- \*The Rev. Denver Bitner, CEO, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- \* Diana Martinez of Elgin, substance abuse treatment client, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- \* Ken Kelleher, president, Service Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois

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# Professor starts fund to benefit UIS athletes

By MARCIA MARTINEZ (marcia.martinez@sj-r.com) THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Apr 21, 2010 @ 12:34 AM

Barbara Hayler didn't attend many <u>University of Illinois Springfield women's basketball games prior to the 2009-10 season, but following the team this season has compelled her to help student-athletes who have lost their athletic scholarships for the 2010-11 academic year.</u>

Hayler, a Professor Emerita of Criminal Justice at UIS, has established the Help Honor Our Promises for Education Fund. Hayler is seeking donations to the Help HOPE fund, which would provide financial assistance to junior athletes who have had their scholarships terminated, regardless of sport, and help with academic costs.

"I was very surprised and distressed when the athletic department decided to cut so many players from the women's basketball team and also terminated their athletic scholarships," Hayler said.

"I attended games this season. I saw them playing hurt. I saw them playing as hard as they could under extremely difficult circumstances. They started the season with 10 players and ended with nine. I thought if they are trying that hard to do everything they can to be the best players they can under difficult, trying conditions that the least I can do is help them. If the university won't do anything, we'll see if some faculty can do something and make a difference."

Hayler said the UIS athletic department also has not renewed the scholarships of several volleyball players. Athletic scholarships cover a one-year period, and NCAA bylaws permit the non-renewal of aid for "any reason" once the period has concluded.

UIS athletic director Rodger Jehlicka refused to comment about Help HOPE or to give the number of student-athletes who did not have their scholarships renewed.

The State Journal-Register has filed a written request under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain the number of student-athletes in the 10 sports that UIS offers who have received Athletic Aid Non Renewal Notification Letters from the school's Office of Financial Assistance since August.

#### Grateful for offer

The Help HOPE fund would aid players like Susan Coryell, a UIS junior from Yorkville. Coryell and five other women's basketball players, including UIS' second-leading scorer Kelly Thompson, were cut from the nine-player team at the end of a 3-24 season and informed their scholarships would not be renewed after the conclusion of the spring term.

"If money is raised I would be honored and very grateful to accept their donations," Coryell wrote in an e-mail. "This fund is much more than just scholarship money, it is certain members of the faculty of UIS showing support to its students when others have not. It truly is amazing what they are doing."

Hayler estimates the fund needs to raise \$20,000 to cover the cost of the aid lost by junior athletes. She started her campaign last week and raised a "few hundred dollars" in the first couple days.

"This fund will provide support to the athletes who have been cut from team and therefore lost assistance," Hayler said. "This fund would not get them back on team and give them the opportunity to play their senior year like they thought they would, but that's something we don't have any control over. What we do have is the ability to help them have a successful senior year. They won't have to take on that extra part-time job to help them pay for their senior year."

UIS professor James Veselenak lent his name to the letter to the editor Hayler submitted to The State Journal-Register to show support for athletes who have lost their scholarships and bring awareness to the matter, but he's not directly involved with the Help HOPE Fund.

"I think this is very unfair," said the Associate Professor Emeritus of Clinical Laboratory Science. "I think it was wrong. I have not talked to anybody that doesn't say this is not right.

"I would not like to see this happen again. I'm an educator. These are student-athletes. They are students first. I hate to see their education disrupted. A number have transferred and that's disrupted their education. They planned to be here four years and now they're not. A couple that are juniors and are going to be seniors have no option to transfer because it will add another year to their education."

If the fund receives more money than she estimated, Hayler said the leftover money would be offered to current sophomore student-athletes who've lost their athletic scholarships.

Hayler stressed donations to the Help HOPE fund are not tax deductible. For information about the fund, contact Hayler at 206-7586 or hayler@uis.edu.

Marcia Martinez can be reached at 788-1547.



## Paying for College

# Students And Families Hit Hard By Public College Tuition Hikes

Archana Rajan, 04.20.10, 6:00 AM ET

It wasn't quite a 1960s re-enactment, but the Day of Action to Defend Education protest held by university students on March 4 had some serious pep.

"Public education is under attack, fight back," and "Education is a right, fight," declared banners across the country. Unfortunately for students intent on keeping college affordable, they're battling against formidable financial odds--so formidable, in fact, that a growing number of students and parents may have to start asking themselves whether higher education is worth the cost.

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Lagging tax revenues and double-digit unemployment have left states battered, and students are feeling the heat. Unlike private universities, many of which are bolstered by large endowments and private donors, public universities rely heavily on state funding.

As lawmakers vote to bridge budget shortfalls, they're leaning on public colleges to share the pain. At least 39 states have cut assistance to public colleges and universities, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The financial strains are washing over the country's largest university systems, many of which have put in place, or intend to implement, double-digit tuition hikes.

Topping the list is the University of California system, which announced its tuition rates will rise 32% over the course of this academic year and the next. The announcement sparked student demonstrations across the UC system.

Given Illinois' \$13 billion state budget shortfall, it comes as little surprise that its public university students can expect 10% to 20% tuition increases in the next year. The state is \$735 million behind on payments to its state university system. The tuition hike comes on top of the university's hiring freeze and unpaid faculty and administrator furloughs.

Financially strapped states that in the past have prided themselves on keeping tuition low for in-state students are in a particularly tough spot. The University of Florida, with among the lowest in-state tuition rates going, has increased tuition 15% to \$4,373 for the current school year.

On top of the stated tuition increases, colleges are adding "surcharges" that add to the cost of attendance. The University of Oregon, for instance, expects its stated tuition rates to rise 13% but is also imposing a \$150 surcharge on in-state students and \$350 on those from elsewhere. The University of Washington has slapped on a \$450 surcharge in addition to expected tuition increases of 14%.

With such steep cost increases, needy families have to evaluate whether they can afford college at all, and middle-class families may soon be forced to ask whether they might as well consider private schools.

The University of Illinois-Chicago already charges in-state tuition and fees in excess of \$12,000; with room and board, the total cost tops \$26,000. One year at nearby Columbia College Chicago costs \$38,120, including \$19,000 in tuition and fees. If Illinois' budget woes persist, the days when cash-strapped students and their families could count on a leg up from state schools may soon be a thing of the past.