



February 6, 2012

TO: University Senate

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

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. BUDGET

We are pleased to report that, for the first time in years, the Governor's Executive Budget for FY 2012-13 did not contain any reductions for SUNY. He upheld his "maintenance of effort" commitment to SUNY's State operations budget. He also proposed maintaining the state support for SUNY's hospitals at last year's \$60 million level, which still represents a significant reduction from the 2010-11 support amount. His proposals in the Capital Budget provided SUNY with the expected amount of support for State projects, but he did not propose any additional Capital funding for Hospital and Dormitory projects.

II. LAST SEMESTER ENDS WITH HISTORIC MILESTONES FOR SBU

Stony Brook University continues to celebrate two recent extraordinary events, which were announced on December 14, 2011 – a transformational \$150 million gift from Jim and Marilyn Simons and the Simons Foundation and Governor Andrew Cuomo's approval of Stony Brook's \$35 million NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant application. The Simons gift is the largest gift ever to Stony Brook University and to public higher education in the State of New York and ranks among the top 10 gifts to any public college or university in America. This tremendous gift will be used to fund three major priorities, including: research excellence in the School of Medicine, faculty hires through new endowed professorships, and the recruitment of top-level graduate and undergraduate students. An additional component of the Simons gift is a matching fund in which first-time alumni gifts will be matched under a \$1million program designed to encourage graduates to give back to their alma mater and increase Stony Brook's overall alumni giving.

The NYSUNY 2020 initiative provides us with a predictable tuition plan, recognizes our unique needs as a research institution and will provide us with an infusion of \$35 million in capital construction dollars. Through this plan, Stony Brook will hire more than 250 new faculty and 400 additional staff, and create thousands of jobs in the community. In addition, a portion of the revenue raised from tuition and fees, along with a portion of the Simons gift and some of the revenue generated through the NYSUNY 2020 initiative, will also fund merit-based scholarships and needs-based aid for undergraduate students. Together these initiatives will allow Stony Brook to offer the most generous financial aid package of any of the SUNY schools. For more detailed information about these two milestones in our institution's history, please visit the Stony Brook University Website.

III. SPRING ENROLLMENT

Spring Enrollment figures are still coming in and will not be finalized until Day 15. The Day 5 enrollment snapshot, which was reported on January 30, came in at 23,428 students, 646 more than reported on opening day. Student counts are updated every five days, with the final enrollment snapshot to be taken by the close of business on Friday, February 10.

IV. ARENA CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO IMPACT MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

As construction plans progress related to the reconfiguration of the University's basketball arena, we are now having to review location options related to the hosting of large institutional events, such as December Commencement, which have traditionally been held in this facility. We are currently discussing the possibility of postponing December Commencement for the next two years while the arena is offline. If we pursue this option, December graduates will be invited to participate in the May graduation ceremony. I will be working with the Provost, Deans, faculty, students and others over the next several weeks to secure additional feedback related to this issue and to explore other meaningful event options for December graduates and their families and the various Colleges. We will keep the University community informed as new information becomes available.

V. UNIVERSITY SEARCHES

Vice President for Research

The search for the University's next Vice President for Research continues to progress under the leadership of search committee chair Dr. Bob Haltiwanger. The interview process is ongoing, and it is expected that finalists will be visiting the campus this month. Several members of the University community will be asked to be involved in this phase of the search process, including members of the University Senate's Research Committee.

Vice President for Finance

The University has engaged the Executive Search Firm of Brill Neumann to work with us in identifying candidates for the Vice President for Finance position. Working with the chair of the search committee, Barbara Chernow, Brill Neumann principals joined us for a two-day visit and met with many campus representatives to discuss the search and to gather information about the position, and the skills and attributes sought in the ideal candidate. The position description and outreach plans are being finalized. Initial candidate consideration is planned for mid-March.

VI. UNIVERSITY BRANDING

Under the leadership of the Office of External Relations, in cooperation with the offices of the Provost and the Senior Vice President for the Health Sciences, the University recently began a campaign to refresh and modernize its logos and brand identity. After receiving significant feedback from the University community in response to the opportunity to preview two new marks, one for the University and another for the medical enterprise, we received strong feedback that we should use one unifying symbol to represent both Stony Brook University and Stony Brook Medicine. With this in mind, we have launched the Stony Brook shield, which symbolizes strength. The new design, which can now be seen throughout the Stony Brook University Website, modernizes our current mark and preserves two prominent existing design elements--rays and stars. We are mindful of budget constraints and faculty, staff and student concerns regarding spending during these tight economic times. As such, the transition to the new mark will be gradual, with signs, stationery, business cards, etc., being replaced as they are depleted or as replacements are needed. For more detailed information about our new brand, visit <http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/branding/>.

VII. PROJECT 50 FORWARD

Update on Operational Excellence

Initiative teams involving Stony Brook faculty and staff are progressing towards delivery of improvements identified under the Operational Excellence element of Project 50 Forward. Please see the attached document for current highlights related to this very important initiative. For more information, visit the Project 50 Forward Website, which can be accessed via a link on the Stony Brook University homepage.

VIII. RECENT RANKINGS

Stony Brook was recently named the 35th best value in public colleges and universities for in-state students and the 29th best value for out-of-state students by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* in their top 100 rankings of public four-year institutions. The rankings appear in the February 2012 issue of *Kiplinger* and on its Website. *Kiplinger* assesses quality and affordability according to a number of measurable standards. This year's rankings were revamped to give more weight to academic value, such as the percentage of students who return for sophomore year and the four-year graduation rate. Cost criteria include low sticker prices, abundant financial aid and low average debt at graduation.

IX. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Google Apps Selected as New Email and Collaboration Services Platform

Stony Brook will be moving to Google Apps for Education for email, shared documents, spreadsheets, presentations, instant messaging, storage, and other related options. The new system will be ready for first use in July, but the vast majority of email migrations are expected to occur during the fall semester. Additional information about this transition can be found on the project's Website: <http://it.cc.stonybrook.edu/email/wolfieconnect>, where you can also find a history of the project, updates, a project time line, information about training and an email link for providing comments or suggestions.

X. NEW PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The President's Office has launched a new Website to provide easier access to details about presidential and institutional initiatives as well as information about the University's leadership and governance structure. Highlights of the site include: access to the bios and photos of the University's senior administrators, contact information and links to the President's Office staff, links to key entities that are part of the institution's governance structure, presidential messages and speeches, and photos and video footage of recent events and activities involving the president. You can access the new Website from the "About SB" link on the Stony Brook University homepage and then click "Office of the President", or you can go directly to the landing page at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/pres/>.

XI. KEY DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Service Awards

The University will recognize employees, who have achieved select service milestones, during its annual Service Awards program on **Tuesday, February 7** at the Student Activities Center. We will celebrate service milestones for 295 employees who have reached 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service. Of those being recognized, 140 have been at Stony Brook for 25 years; 118 for 30 years; 22 for 35 years; 10 for 40 years; and five have achieved an amazing 45 years of service.

Stony Brook to Host Suffolk County Housing Summit

The University is proud to host the Suffolk County Planning Commission's annual Housing Summit on **Wednesday, February 8** at the Charles B. Wang Center. This year's Summit will feature a keynote address by newly-elected Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone. The event is critical to our region as Long Island's policy makers and thought leaders work to strategize about regional housing needs.

XII. FACULTY ACCOLADES

Four SBU Professors Names AAAS Fellows

On behalf of the entire Stony Brook University community, I wish to extend my congratulations to professors Ben Hsiao, Lorna Role, Peter Stephens and George Sterman, who were recently elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and will be honored for their contributions to science next week at the Fellows Forum during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. As I mentioned in a statement earlier, we are extremely proud of these extraordinary professors and feel that they are truly deserving of this distinction.

Stony Brook Faculty Recognized for Mentoring Eight Intel Finalists

I am also pleased to congratulate the Stony Brook University faculty members who mentored a record eight of the 40 high school students chosen as finalists in the prestigious 2012 Intel Science Talent Search. Five of the students are from Long Island, two are from California and one is from Michigan. The eight Stony Brook-mentored finalists participated in summer research at Stony Brook in 2011 through the Simons Summer Research Program (five students), the Garcia Center: Polymers at Engineered Interfaces Summer Research Program (two students) or independently (one student), where they worked in Stony Brook University labs under the direction of Stony Brook faculty members and graduate students. To learn more about the students and their SBU mentors, please visit the SBU homepage.

XIII. ATHLETICS UPDATE

The success of Stony Brook's athletics teams continues to bring positive state and national exposure to the University. Several of our teams, including men's and women's basketball and football, have appeared prominently on ESPN3, ESPNU, the Big 10 Network, Cablevision, Time Warner Sports, MSG and the CBS Sports Network, just to name a few. In addition, our student athletes continue to do well in the classroom, including our basketball team, which recently reported having six players with a GPA of 3.0 or better, and an overall fall GPA of 2.83.



Stony Brook University

Update on Operational Excellence

Enrollment Management – This team is implementing an online transfer articulation module in PeopleSoft and an automated degree audit for majors. Faculty members have been consulted throughout the design phase and will continue to be involved in the implementation, assuring quality and academic integrity. These efforts will improve student service, student success, and administrative efficiency while also supporting University planning efforts. Currently, the transfer articulation team is building known course equivalencies into PeopleSoft while the degree audit group is working with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on their major audits.

Facilities – This team is exploring the feasibility of conducting building cleaning at night, as opposed to during the day, to improve both cleaning efficiency and building cleanliness. The team is evaluating the results of a recently concluded pilot study of night cleaning conducted in the Melville Library building. In addition, the team is working with the Provost's Office to better define the qualifications and expectations for individuals in the role of building managers and to improve coordination between building managers and facilities personnel.

Faculty Student Association (FSA) – This team identified, and FSA has acted upon, opportunities to improve FSA operations, services and marketing, including: strengthening purchasing, inventory and sales procedures for University branded merchandise; developing a program for off-campus merchants to sell University branded merchandise supplied by FSA, reaching additional customers; improving the efficiency of credit card transactions at dining locations; creating a new FSA Website that organizes FSA's mission and services with new customers in mind; implementing a new online educational discount purchasing program for Apple products; exploring opportunities associated with e-textbook technology; seeking bids for vending services to improve services and revenue; analyzing the potential for economies of scale from coordination between East and West Campus dining services; and refining FSA's organizational structure.

Human Resources – This team, with representatives from faculty and staff throughout the campus and the Office of Diversity, has undertaken a review and redesign of the search and selection process. Focusing on the need to provide a more efficient and effective process, the team sought to eliminate steps that do not add value and identify those that could be performed concurrently. The team also focused on the importance of diversity, outreach and the development of best practices. Central to this initiative will be the implementation of an online Applicant Tracking System (ATS) intended to manage the recruitment process from position description to the onboarding of a new hire. The team is in the final stages of selecting an ATS that will include, among other features, automated initial candidate screening and candidate communications. The system will also provide data that will support strategic search and selection decisions. To accompany the ATS, the team has developed guidelines, position description templates, interview question 'banks' and an array of online tools that will assist hiring departments. A renewed emphasis on training will support this initiative.

Libraries – This team, including faculty and library personnel, is implementing steps to reduce costs while maintaining a high level of service to library patrons and improving access to library materials. To date, the Libraries have consolidated staffing, improved back-office operations and increased the use of automated processes. In August 2011, the Libraries worked with the Division of Information Technology to introduce a new online payment process for library fines and fees, which has improved fine collection and reduced the need for patrons to make payments in person at the Library or the Bursar's Office. The Libraries have moved nearly 1,000 subscription titles to digital network-accessible formats over the past

three years, increasing the availability and accessibility of research publications while saving approximately \$50,000. Increased collaboration between the University and Health Sciences libraries has resulted in a single search interface (SBUFind) that provides access to the combined collections of both Library catalogs; it has also increased the sharing of knowledge, best practices and resources.

Procurement/Systems – This team is implementing the SciQuest electronic procurement solution to replace the current electronic requisitioning system for State funds and paper requisitioning process for Research Foundation (RF) funds. “Wolfmart”, as the system has been named locally, will allow departments to use a single procurement system regardless of whether purchases involve State or RF funds. The team worked successfully with SUNY and RF to provide the direct feed to their financial systems for Wolfmart purchases essential for this initiative to proceed. The implementation continues on track, with approximately 18% of campus departments trained on Wolfmart. Training continues and is expected to support the July 1 campus-wide utilization plan. Approximately 3,000 purchase orders have been generated using Wolfmart and the user base continues to grow. The team has started discussions relating to Phase II (e-invoicing), with focus groups planned for mid-February with SUNY, RF and campus representatives.

Procurement/Strategic Sourcing – This team is implementing a strategic procurement process expected to produce cost savings by standardizing certain types of products purchased by the University and by using our purchasing volume to negotiate improved pricing with vendors. The team recently announced a new office supply agreement. Bid openings for janitorial supplies, paint, plumbing supplies and electrical supplies will occur over the next two months, with evaluations of savings to follow. The University plans to utilize the New York State-wide strategic sourcing initiative for laboratory supplies; the team is currently working with the Governor's Office and Accenture on that procurement. Standards for computer equipment, furniture and managed print services and revised food and travel policies are currently being evaluated and are expected to be implemented later in this fiscal year.