

Hi Everyone,

The latest information about the NJ State budget and funding for higher education appears below. It was prepared by Steve Young the Executive Director of the Council of New Jersey State College Locals, our state union. Please continue to send letters and e-mails to your state representatives urging them to support funding for public higher education.

Regards,

Joe Moskowitz

President, Local 1839

5/20/09 {From: Steve Young}

The Governor has added \$30.7 million from the State Stimulus monies to the proposed appropriations for the senior public higher ed institutions as of yesterday's Assembly Budget Committee meeting. The State Treasurer mentioned this area in his testimony and added that there would be strings attached to the additional funding. Those would be a cap on tuition (he did not give a percentage) and a restriction on spending the same as the other departments in the executive branch of government.

What this means is the 5% cuts announced in his March budget are no longer there, and the institutions will receive the same amount they received in 2009. Unfortunately, the salary transfer monies (pay raises) are not in the budget for any state employees so despite general operating funding being the same as 2009, there isn't money from the State for pay increases. Fringe benefits had been proposed to increase by \$26.4 million. But the Governor's budget has decreased that by \$5 million to \$21.2 million increase – which is not bad news.

The County colleges are also increased back to the 2009 level. The total restored for public higher ed through the stimulus is \$35.8 million. Apparently the State has allegedly received a waiver from the U.S. Dept. of Education to use an additional \$32.4 million from the stimulus funds for Tuition Assistance Grants. We still disagree with this.

It appears some of our efforts on the stimulus are beginning to pay off but the budget has not been approved by the legislature and will probably be adjusted further over the next few weeks due to the severe increasing shortfall in revenues which the Office of Legislative Services outlined at yesterday's meeting. Hopefully, through the stimulus funds, there will be no further cuts for higher ed and we'll still be attempting to obtain even more funding for higher ed through the \$1.1 billion available for education in NJ.