MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 2010

To: Campus Community

From: John Ettling, President

Re: Proposed furlough of state employees

The governor has announced that he will include language authorizing state employee furloughs (reduction in work schedule) within his next round of proposed emergency appropriations bills. If adopted by the Legislature, this would result in a scheduled one-day-per-week unpaid furlough for state employees, which will continue until there is a NYS budget or the language is eliminated in subsequent emergency appropriations bills, which ever comes first.

This furlough applies to Executive Branch agencies, which includes SUNY Plattsburgh and all other SUNY campuses. Certain employees are exempt from the furlough, and this includes employees designated as management confidential and those who provide direct health care services or are engaged in certain security functions. These individuals will be notified directly after a determination has been made.

According to the Division of Budget, if enacted, employees must be scheduled for a work week reduction of one-fifth, with a corresponding reduction in salary, beginning with the week of May 17, 2010. In other words, full-time employees will not come to work on one normally scheduled day during their workweek and will not be paid for that day. Correspondingly, the one-fifth reduction in salary will show up beginning with the June 9 paycheck.

Additionally, the governor has proposed that accrued leave cannot be used to offset the salary reduction even if the employee’s furlough day falls during a previously approved vacation or if an employee is sick. While details of the proposed legislation and its potential impact on SUNY are still unclear, we are monitoring this situation closely with System Administration. There are many unanswered questions. As we learn more, we will continue to update you.

We are aware that this is a critical time of the semester especially as we close the spring semester, enter finals week, transition to Summer Session and begin the high maintenance and cleaning season. I want to thank you again for your continuing commitment to serve our students and preserve our campus as we move through these difficult times together.

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