

State Votes Down Budget Cuts

Tuition Hikes Avoided, Sharper Cuts Expected



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Governor David Paterson

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The New York State Legislature struck down the budget cuts proposed by Governor David Paterson last week in a special session. The cuts would have increased tuitions by \$600 annually, according to Newsday.

This comes as New York State faces a deficit of \$47 million over the next 5 years, Newsday reported. Last Tuesday, students, faculty, and student government representatives gathered outside City Hall in order to protest the tuition hikes. Later that evening, the state legislature struck down the protested hikes.

According to the Newsday report, the increase would have generated \$94 million in revenue for the state. The Professional Staff Congress, which represents CUNY faculty and staff, issued a press release, which denounced the budget cuts and tuition hikes.

"There is an alternative to cutting vital services for the poor and middle class, and asking New York's neediest college students to pay more," said Dr. Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY in the press release. "Millions of New Yorkers want to know why Albany is not considering revenue options. In an economic crisis, New York should be investing in public higher education, not cutting people's lifeline out of poverty."

While state lawmakers failed to vote for the budget cuts in this round, said that public higher education faces sharper, deeper cuts in the future, an editorial in the Daily News.