

MORE CUTS FOR CUNY

Budget Reductions Would Reduce Funding by \$53 Million

BY WILLIAM KLINE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Governor David Paterson proposed another round of budget cuts, which would reduce State funding to CUNY by \$53 million. While the struggling Democratic governor scrambles to close the deficit, the University has endured cuts in two consecutive fiscal years totaling \$112 million.

Paterson, in a press release issued October 6th, called for an 11% reduction in spending for all State agencies. By doing so, he seeks to close the \$2.1 Billion shortfall projected for the current year.

"While agencies have already taken significant action to reduce spending since I took office, further cuts are necessary given the State's persistent fiscal difficulties," said Governor Paterson. "These agency spending reductions, however, only represent a first step. I look forward to working cooperatively with the Legislature to enact additional savings and close our current-year deficit."

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein lobbied against the cuts in testimony submitted to the New York State Finance Committee, citing a growth in student enrollment, which has expanded the "demand for faculty, programs, class sections, academic and student services, and classroom and laboratory space is also at record levels," said Goldstein.

"Clearly, it is difficult for the University to absorb a mid-year reduction, particularly when it follows previous cuts to CUNY's senior colleges totaling \$68.3 million," said CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein in his testimony, published on the CUNY web-site. "While the University anticipated the likelihood of a mid-year cut and took appropriate measures to mitigate its effect and prevent significant diminishment of academic services, the fact remains that it will have a chilling effect on CUNY's plans."

Students, staff and faculty have mobilized in efforts to stave off the cuts. On October 27th, students from across CUNY gathered at Hunter College to rally against the reductions. Members of the Professional Staff Congress (PSC),