LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State and Federal Budgets Include Important Programs for Students

**By Ellen S. Smith**

The major portions of the state budget for fiscal year 2003 (4/01/02-3/31/02) were completed in May much earlier than in recent previous years. Included in the budget were important programs for our students, economic development and the health sciences campus. In the economic development arena, three programs with slightly different emphases encouraged by the Governor, the State Senate and the State Assembly receive funding. Among these programs are the following:

• The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) increased by $57 million (TAP) increased by $57 million equal to last year's level;• The Security Through Advanced Research and Technology Program (START) receives $5 million to assist universities in obtaining federal funding in areas of homeland security and high technology;• The Centers for Excellence in the Nonbinding budget resolution, but annual funding sub-committees are likely to move forward now, following the Memorial Day recess. However, prior to adjournment two key bills with impact on the university were passed. The security and visa reform bill establishes a number of new requirements for visa applications and an interim visa issuance program until the foreign student tracking system is in place. Universities will be required to notify the INS if a student does not report within 30 days after an academic term begins and students from terrorist producing countries will likely have greater stresses than in recent previous years.

Recently passed legislation will include conference language that will allow individuals restricted from research on hazardous biological materials to appeal a decision to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. No waiver will be provided, however, for "restricted persons" prohibited from access to select agents by last fall's antiterrorism bill, but the Secretary of HHS will be given some discretion during a public health emergency. The Congress does not intend to disrupt research as individuals are reviewed. For additional information, contact Ellen S. Smith at es9@columbia.edu.

• The Dental Clinic subsidy for Columbia and NYU is funded at $1.05 million;
• Columbia’s Molecular Nanostructures Transport Center receives $500,000;
• The Gen*NY*sis program for investment in life sciences research is funded at $225 million and will be funded by the Urban Development Corporation;
• The Security Through Advanced Research and Technology Program (START) receives $5 million to assist universities in obtaining federal funding in areas of homeland security and high technology;
• The RESTORE program is funded with a minimum of $90 million and will be funded through the Urban Development Corporation;
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• The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is funded at $22 million. $5 million above last year’s funding;
• Direct Institutional Aid “Bundy” is funded at $44.3 million equal to last year’s level;
• STEP/C-STEP is funded at a level $2.5 million above last year or $10 million;
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A Glimpse of Columbia History . . .

Thompson Hall Pool, Teacher’s College—Unable to use Columbia’s gymnasium and pool, these women take advantage of the facilities at Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Hall, located on 120th street, between the Horace Mann and Main buildings at Teachers College. Named for the late husband of Teachers College board member Mary Thompson, it was built by architects Parish & Schroeder in 1904. While providing a respite from the heat, the facilities were also essential in the physical education of female students. This photograph suggests a class, not mere recreation, as the main standing between the posed divers is the likely instructor, appearing dry in a turtleneck. The pool appears similar today, with the stalls and galleries still lining the sides. This photo was probably taken sometime between 1905-1919.

—Jennifer Ulrich