

Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) Assessment Survey

Questionnaire

**Center for Survey Research
Stony Brook University**

Invite

Subject: Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA)

Message: Dear Stony Brook students:

The Center for Survey Research at Stony Brook University is currently conducting a survey on your views of pending legislation: the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act on behalf of the Graduate Student Organization. This survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The findings will contribute to an ongoing debate on the bill and will be distributed widely to state representatives, SUNY officials, and the news media. Your participation in the survey will ensure that we gather a full range of voices on questions concerning the bill.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and your responses will be strictly confidential. If you have any questions about the survey or the procedures, please contact Soraya Zabihi, Director of Operations at the Center for Survey Research, by e-mail at soraya.zabihi@sunysb.edu. If you wish to make added comments about the bill, please do so at the end of the survey.

Thank you very much for your time. To begin, please click on the link below, which indicates your consent to participate in this survey.

{Survey Location}

Id

Unique Identification

Prog

Academic Program

Plan

Academic Plan

Level

Academic Level

Term

Term Admitted.

Question Q1

In this year's budget, Governor Paterson proposed the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA). How much have you heard or read about the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) or specific provisions in the act?

1. A great deal
2. Some
3. A little
4. Not much
5. Nothing at all
9. No response

Question Q2

How strong are your views on the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) and its specific provisions?

1. Very strong
2. Somewhat strong
3. Not so strong
4. Not at all strong
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

Information Screen

The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) has won support from SUNY and CUNY officials but met with opposition from UUP officials (United University Professionals, the faculty and staff union) and some state legislators. The act has several features that constitute a major departure from existing policy. One involves transferring current control of student tuition fees from the State Legislature to the SUNY Board of Trustees, and assures that all tuition increases will be retained at the

local campuses (they now are substantially returned to the State and do not benefit SUNY). Another provision of the act allows the SUNY Board of Trustees to authorize higher tuition for the four university centers than for the four year colleges.

The act also relaxes state oversight of university partnerships with private business and the leasing of campus land to private entities for educational purposes, while transferring decision-making for many of these initiatives to the local campuses. The SUNY Chancellor, SUNY Board of Trustees, and the State Asset Maximization Review Board must approve all such public-private arrangements.

Those in favor of the bill, including SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, other SUNY officials, and Dr. Stanley, President of Stony Brook University, argue that allowing SUNY trustees to set campus-specific tuition will permit tuition to be raised in regular manageable amounts, emphasize that all tuition funds will go to campuses rather than into general state revenues, and believe that state allocations could not be reduced in response to tuition increases. They argue that low-income students will be protected from tuition increases and current union protections for campus employees would be preserved. In addition, President Stanley projects that raising the tuition at Stony Brook University will allow the university to hire an added 400 faculty and related staff over the next 10 years.

Those opposed to the bill, including UUP officials, argue that the act could result in large tuition increases that will limit many students' access to universities in the SUNY system (since the act protects only the lowest-income students from tuition increases). In addition, UUP officials argue that allowing campuses to collect and manage these higher tuitions will result in the state of New York further cutting back on its financial support of SUNY, effectively eliminating the benefit of any tuition increase. UUP officials also argue that removing current state oversight of public-private partnerships will mean that campus administrations can reverse union contracts and engage in greater outsourcing that relies on non-union labor. UUP is also concerned that differential tuition may increase inequality within the SUNY system. Environmental groups point to the absence in the legislation of rigorous environmental regulation of new public-private campus construction projects.

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Senate has passed a resolution to endorse/support PHEEIA. The Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) and the Research Assistants Union's umbrella local (CWA 1104) officially opposes PHEEIA in its current form. However, GSEU and RA Union at Stony Brook University have not yet taken an official position on PHEEIA (although they expressed strong reservations about it).

The next questions concern specific provisions of the PHEEIA act.

Question Q3

How strongly do you support or oppose transferring the power to set SUNY tuition levels and control tuition funds away from the New York state legislature to the SUNY Board of Trustees?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

Question Q4a

PHEEIA would allow SUNY campuses to raise their tuition up to 2.5 times the Higher Education Price Index with the approval of the SUNY Board of Trustees. This would translate into a maximum increase of 6-8%. For example, a graduate student paying \$10,000 per year (\$5,000 per semester) would pay up to roughly \$600-\$800 more per year (\$300-\$400 per semester) in the coming academic year (2010-2011), with the possibility of similar increases each year for up to ten years. How strongly do you support or oppose allowing the Trustees to set tuition levels?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

IF "SOMEWHAT OPPOSE" OR "STRONGLY OPPOSE" IN Q4A ASK Q4B, OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q5.

Question Q4b

How strongly would you support or oppose allowing the SUNY Board of Trustees to set tuition if tuition increases were modified SO THAT the maximum for tuition increases was LOWERED FROM 2.5 TIMES TO 1.5 TIMES the Higher Education Price Index OR a 4-6% increase rather than a 6-8% increase? This would translate into an increase of roughly \$300-\$400 per year as opposed to \$600 to \$800 in tuition.

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response
10. Not asked

Question Q5

How strongly do you support or oppose allowing the SUNY university centers – Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, and Stony Brook -- to charge higher tuition than other SUNY

colleges?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

Question Q6

How strongly do you support or oppose relaxing state control to allow individual SUNY campuses to raise income through partnerships with private businesses or by leasing land to local private enterprises for educational purposes?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS WERE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO RECEIVE Q7 BUT NOT Q15, AND HALF WERE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO RECEIVE Q15 BUT NOT Q7.

Question Q7

Thinking about all of the provisions of the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) discussed so far, how strongly do you support or oppose it?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response
10. Not asked

Question Q8

Which of the following do you think is most likely to occur at Stony Brook University in five years from now if PHEEIA IS NOT PASSED by the New York state legislature?

1. Stony Brook University tuition will substantially increase
2. Stony Brook University tuition will moderately increase
3. Stony Brook University tuition will be the same as now
4. Stony Brook University tuition will moderately decrease
5. Stony Brook University tuition will substantially decrease

9. No response

Question Q9

Which of the following do you think is most likely to occur at Stony Brook University in five years from now if PHEEIA IS NOT PASSED by the New York state legislature?

1. PhD students will receive substantially higher stipends
2. PhD students will receive moderately higher stipends
3. PhD student stipend levels will be the same as now
4. PhD students will receive moderately lower stipends
5. PhD students will receive substantially lower stipends
6. Don't know / Don't have enough information about PhD programs
9. No response

Question Q10

Which of the following do you think is most likely to occur at Stony Brook University in five years from now if PHEEIA IS NOT PASSED by the New York state legislature?

1. Stony Brook University will substantially increase the number of funding lines for PhD students
2. Stony Brook University will moderately increase the number of funding lines for PhD students
3. PhD student funding lines will be the same as now
4. Stony Brook University will moderately decrease the number of funding lines for PhD students
5. Stony Brook University will substantially decrease the number of funding lines for PhD students
6. Don't know / Don't have enough information about PhD programs
9. No response

Question Q11

Which of the following do you think is most likely to occur at Stony Brook University in five years from now if PHEEIA IS NOT PASSED by the New York state legislature?

1. Graduate students will receive substantially more course offerings
2. Graduate students will receive moderately more course offerings
3. Graduate students course offerings will be the same as now
4. Graduate students will receive moderately fewer course offerings
5. Graduate students will receive substantially fewer course offerings
9. No response

Question Q12

How concerned are you about the level of protection provided in PHEEIA for UNION workers who are hired through public-private partnerships or subcontracts awarded to non-university business partners on campus?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not very concerned
4. Not at all concerned
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

Question Q13

How concerned are you that PHEEIA will lead to an increase in NON-UNION workers on campus who might not have the same environmental, health, and safety protections as campus union workers?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not very concerned
4. Not at all concerned
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

Question Q14

How concerned are you about the level of environmental regulation and oversight provided in the legislation for new public-private construction projects on campus?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not very concerned
4. Not at all concerned
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS WERE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO RECEIVE Q7 BUT NOT Q15, AND HALF WERE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO RECEIVE Q15 BUT NOT Q7.

Question Q15:

Thinking about all of the provisions of the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) discussed so far, how strongly do you support or oppose it?

1. Strongly support

2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
9. No response

Question Q16

Have you ever heard anything about SUNY Board of Trustees?

1. Yes
2. No
9. No response

Question Q17

How closely do you follow State Politics?

1. Very closely
2. Somewhat closely
3. Not closely
4. Not closely at all
9. No response

Question Q18

For how many years have you been a student at Stony Brook University?

1. 1 year
2. 2 years
3. 3 years
4. 4 years
5. 5 years
6. 6 years or more
9. No response

Question Q19a

Which program are you currently enrolled in at Stony Brook?

1. MD
2. Dental
3. PhD
4. MA/MS
5. MBA
6. MSW
7. Other (Please specify)
9. No response

Question Q19b

If other, please specify:

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION.

Question Q20:

Are you a paid Teaching Assistant (TA), a Research Assistant (RA), or Graduate Assistant (GA) this semester (Spring 2010)?

1. TA
2. RA
3. GA
4. Not a TA, RA, or GA
9. No response

Question Q21a:

Do you receive a stipend or any financial support from your graduate program or another Stony Brook program or department (including a scholarship, research assistantship, or teaching assistantship) this semester (Spring 2010)?

1. Yes
2. No

IF "YES" IN Q21A ASK Q21B AND Q21C, OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q22.

Question Q21b:

Do you receive a half-year stipend or a full-year stipend?

1. Half-year stipend
2. Full-year stipend
9. No response

Question Q21c:

How much stipend will you receive for this academic year (Fall 2009, Spring 2010 or Summer 2010)?

1. Less than \$15,145
2. \$15,145-\$17,145
3. \$17,146-\$22,145
4. \$22,146-\$26,145
5. More than \$26,145
9. No response

Question Q22:

Did you receive a tuition waiver for this academic year (Fall 2009, Spring 2010)?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Partial tuition waiver
9. No response

Question Q23:

What department are you in?

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION.

Question Q24:

How involved are you in graduate student government politics and/or decision making (e.g. GSO, GSEU, University Senate, etc.)?

1. Very involved
2. Somewhat involved
3. Somewhat uninvolved
4. Very uninvolved
9. No response

Question Q25

Are you:

1. Male
2. Female
9. No response

Question Q26

Please add any other comments about the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) in the space provided below:

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION.

Please make sure to click the "Submit" button below to send your responses and complete the survey. If you do not click "Submit" all of your information will be lost. If you'd like more information about the study, you can call Soraya Zahibi, Director of Operations of the Center for Survey Research at 631-632-4006. To know more about our organization, please visit our website at www.sunysb.edu/surveys

For information about your rights as a participant, you can also call Judy Matuk, Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects at Stony Brook 631-632-9036. Thank you.

Campus1

Campus location.

1. West
2. HSC
3. Southampton
4. Distance

Load1

Academic Load.

1. Full time
2. Not full time

Degree1

Degree.

1. MA
2. MS
3. MM
4. MBA
5. MAT
6. MSW
7. MFA
8. MPH
9. MPS
10. CER
11. DMA
12. DPT
13. PhD

Sex1

Gender.

1. Male
2. Female

Question Q9_17

Full Sample: Thinking about all of the provisions of the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) discussed so far, how strongly do you support or oppose it?

1. Strongly support
2. Somewhat support
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don't know / Have not heard enough about it
6. No response

Level1

Academic Level, All

1. C1
2. C2
3. C3
4. C4
5. G0
6. G1
7. G2
8. G3
9. G4
10. G5

Level2

Academic Level, By Group

2. PhD
3. Master's
4. Certificate & G0

Campus2

Campus location.

1. West
2. HSC
3. Other

Weight

Weights for sample.