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Quick Takes

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New York Tuition Reform Plan Fails

New York State's Legislature had adopted a budget for the fiscal year that does not include a measure that would have given the State University of New York and the City University of New York more flexibility in using the tuition revenue. The measure has been a major goal of the university systems and the Assembly balked at some provisions. SUNY's chancellor, Nancy L. Zimpher, [issued a statement](#) to enact the reforms "a missed opportunity" for the state. And she noted that the public universities and increased enrollment pressures without the budget flexibility sought in the reform measure forced legislators to enact the reforms. John B. Simpson, president of SUNY's university center in Buffalo, said it has been unfair to their students. "On top of these very significant cuts, students have watched the virtually all of which has gone as a tax to the state, while the university has been able to provide services. Forced to continue to operate in a highly regulated environment, more befitting a state agency than the regulatory status quo, which we are now left with, will not allow this university to thrive."

Principles for Digitizing Special Collections

The Association of Research Libraries Board of Directors unanimously has adopted a set of [principles](#) in negotiations with publishers or other vendors over the digitization of special collections. The association is looking for outside partners for such projects, but want to assure that these relationships are controlled. The principles cover such issues as the need for libraries to maintain their own copies of all materials made possible to the digitized versions, and the need to protect the privacy of those who use digitized materials. Information to be collected about them.

Falling Bond Ratings

Many more colleges and universities are having their bond ratings downgraded this year than according to an analysis by [Forbes](#) of Moody's decisions in 2010. So far, four colleges and universities compared to about two dozen that have received downgrades.

College Accused of Bias Against Straight Professor

With backing from the New York State Human Rights Division, Csaba Marosan is suing Troca Catholic institution discriminated against him because of his accent (he's from Hungary) and bias reported. The state agency investigated his complaint and found grounds to sue. Marosan claims a clique of gay men at the college who are known as the "Merry Men" and who are backed by administrators. The college is denying his charges that he was denied promotions or fired for speaking out, or discrimination.

Southern States Backslide in Adult Education

Despite a rhetorical and programmatic push in recent years, the 16 states that participate in the SREB actually regressed in the number of young adults enrolled in adult education programs from 2007 to 2009, a new report shows. The report, "A Smart Move in Tough Times: How SREB States Can Strengthen Adult Learning Programs," details on the progress (or lack thereof) that individual states and the region have made, and offers suggestions to improve the situation.

Sweden May Let Universities Ban Burqas

Jan Björklund, Sweden's education minister, is calling for legal changes that would allow universities to ban burqas, [Swedish Wire](#) reported. "Teaching is communication. It's about being able to look at each other and communicate with each other," Björklund said in a radio interview. "In that way, I mean it is excluded from the face."

Injunction Saves Rabbits, for Now, at U. of Victoria

A court order has blocked the University of Victoria, in British Columbia, from trapping or killing wild rabbits removed from campus, [The Vancouver Sun](#) reported. About 1,400 wild rabbits roam the campus, causing considerable damage, and want to reduce the population to 200. The university is now appealing the court order.

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