



Today's News Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Downstate Update

In a meeting that lasted less than 40 minutes—with no provocateurs seen in the audience or protesting politicians arrested—SUNY Downstate leaders met publicly yesterday to give an update of the financially troubled institution's sustainability plan. SUNY Downstate President Dr. John Williams said that restructuring already underway at Downstate's University Hospital, such as improved billing, has helped operations "significantly." But last week it had to put its residents on notice that the residency program had a "catastrophic event" that affected accreditation. The residency program at Long Island College Hospital shut down, but the two hospitals share a common identity for accreditation purposes. Dr. Williams said negotiations are ongoing. "This probation will not last long," he said, "but we have to let every applicant know we are on probation." Asked by an audience member about LICH diverting ambulances, he shot back, "we have life safety issues. ... We have not tried to close anything. Our residencies are on probation."