

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 637-5000
www.aflcio.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

JOHN J. SWEENEY
PRESIDENT

Gerald W. McEntee
Patricia Friend
Robert A. Scardelletti
Michael J. Sullivan
Cheryl Johnson, R.N.
William Burrus
James Williams
William H. Young
Andrea E. Brooks
Laura Rico
Paul C. Thompson

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Gene Upshaw
Michael Goodwin
John M. Bowers
Harold Schaitberger
Clyde Rivers
Leo W. Gerard
John J. Flynn
Nat LaCour
Larry Cohen
Thomas C. Short
James C. Little

LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Sacco
William Lucy
R. Thomas Buffenbarger
Edwin D. Hill
Cecil Roberts
Edward J. McElroy Jr.
Baxter M. Atkinson
Vincent Giblin
Warren George
Robbie Sparks
Alan Rosenberg
Frank Hurt
Leon Lynch
Elizabeth Bunn
Joseph J. Hunt
Edward C. Sullivan
Ron Gettelfinger
John Gage
William Hite
Gregory J. Junemann
Nancy Wohlforth
Capt. John Prater

March 20, 2007

Chancellor Charles Reed
California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Chancellor Reed:

I am writing in regard to the impending strike by the faculty of the California State University.

There are thousands of AFL-CIO members in California. They and their families look most often to the CSU as the institution of public higher education where their hopes for a quality education and better life can be achieved. As you know, over 35% of CSU students work full time, and a larger percentage work part time. Many of these students are AFL-CIO members and the first in their families to attend college.

I have a general and growing concern about your seeming disregard for the overall educational integrity of the institution and the welfare of the students, faculty and staff.

When I look at your policies on student fees, class offerings, the use of part-time faculty and collective bargaining, it saddens me that the institution we most often hold up as an example to other states and their legislative leaders, is experiencing such set backs. Labor leaders throughout California firmly believe that the CSU has been critical to everything that made the state the creative and vibrant force that it is.

While our interests in the future of the CSU go beyond our traditional labor bargaining interests, we are extremely concerned about these as well. We join with the growing list of unions and associations throughout California and the country who are prepared to support the California Faculty Association in their struggle at the bargaining table with your administration. In addition to support from my office, more than 15 AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils have granted or are in the process of granting strike sanction to CFA.

Chancellor Reed
March 20, 2007
Page 2

I personally will be watching closely when the fact finder's report is released to the public next week; I will give attention to your reaction to her report.

We urge you to bargain in good faith, look carefully at the recommendations made by the fact finder, and do all you can to avoid the first faculty strike in the history of the CSU. Avoiding the strike is best for everyone -- the students, the faculty and even your administration. Everyone who cares for and appreciates the role that the CSU plays in the future of the state would best be served by an equitable settlement.

If I can be of any service to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Sweeney".

John J. Sweeney
President

JJS:lh