

From the California Faculty Association

cfa@calfac.org or <http://www.calfac.org>

CFA HEADLINES

June 26, 2007 · Weekly news digest from CFA

POLITICS AND LEGISLATION

- State budget update
- CFA sponsored Yee bill passes committee
- CSU reform bill heads to committee
- Both congressional houses pass financial aid reform bills
- Hoffman attends prestigious mayors' conference

OTHER NEWS

- CFA president honored
- Henry Jones for CalPERS
- UCFW announces strike vote plans
- CFA employment opportunities

CFA HEADLINES ON HIATUS

CFA Headlines will not publish on its regular schedule during July, although special email announcements will go out as needed. We will resume the regular end-of-the-day every Tuesday schedule on August 14. Have a great summer!

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POLITICS

- STATE BUDGET UPDATE

Two weeks after the deadline to send a budget proposal to the governor, state lawmakers continue to work to finalize details of the deal. The remaining sticking points include: funding for public transit, welfare cuts, and the timeline for the repayment of bond debt. The constitutional deadline for passage of the state budget is July 1 – a deadline that is seldom met.

Once a world-class body builder, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger seems to have removed himself from any heavy lifting in this year's budget process by taking a diplomatic trip to Europe during the all-important last week of the fiscal year.

At this late stage of the budget process, it appears all but assured that the 10% student fee increase proposed by the CSU Board of Trustees will be included in the final budget. This latest hike means CSU undergrad fees will have nearly doubled since 2002, rising 94%.

- CFA SPONSORED YEE BILL PASSES COMMITTEE

Last week the Assembly Higher Education Committee unanimously passed legislation to bring much needed transparency to the CSU.

Senate Bill 190, the Higher Education Governance Accountability Act authored by Senator Leland Yee and co-sponsored by CFA, will require all votes on CSU and UC executive compensation packages to occur in an open session of a subcommittee and the full board. The bill will also require full disclosure of the compensation package with accompanying rationale and public comment on the specific action item. It also closes a loophole that allows UC Regents and CSU Trustees on advisory groups to circumvent the open meetings law.

“Thousands of students turn to this university for the education they need to contribute to California,” said Lillian Taiz, California Faculty Association President. “It is a disservice to students when the administration caters to elite executives who get huge pay raises and golden parachutes.”

SB 190 now moves to the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee. The state senate has already approved the bill by a 39-0 vote.

- CSU REFORM BILL MOVES TO COMMITTEE

Assembly Bill 1413, the CFA-sponsored CSU governance reform bill, will be heard by the Senate Education Committee July 11 - and your help is needed to ensure it is passed.

The bill, authored by Assemblymembers Anthony Portantino and Julia Brownley, would prevent secret agreements and questionable executive compensation practices enacted by the CSU Administration in recent years. The bill provides greater oversight of the Board of Trustees by ensuring the participation of Trustees who are elected state and legislative members.

CFA is asking CSU faculty members and others in the campus communities at CSU East Bay and San Jose State, as well as anyone who lives in the Hayward and San Jose areas, to make phone calls or send faxes to members of that committee including Senators Tom Torlakson (Hayward area), Joe Simitian and Elaine Alquist (San Jose area) asking them to support the bill.

The message we need for you to convey is simple: “I am calling to urge the Senator to support Assembly Bill 1413 to improve the public oversight and

accountability of the CSU Board of Trustees, and to prohibit secret, uncontrolled payouts for retiring CSU executives.”

If you are a San Jose or East Bay professor or live in either area, please send a fax or email to your representative online today, by going to:

<http://capwiz.com/calpac/state/main/?state=CA>

Or contact your local district office at one of the following locations:

Sen. Torlakson’s district office

Phone: (925) 602-6593

Fax: (925) 602-6598

2801 Concord Boulevard

Concord, CA 94519

Sen. Simitian’s district office

Phone: (650) 688-6384

Fax: (650) 688-6370

160 Town and Country Village

Palo Alto, CA 94301

Sen. Alquist’s district office

Phone: (408) 286-8318

Fax: (408) 286-2338

100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 209

San Jose, CA 95113

- BOTH CONGRESSIONAL HOUSES PASS FINANCIAL AID REFORM LEGISLATION

Student financial aid continues to be a hot-button issue in Washington D.C. as two bills to reform the lending practices of financial aid providers have gained bi-partisan support.

In the senate, a bill sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass) was passed unanimously last Wednesday by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which Kennedy chairs.

The bill would raise the maximum award in the U.S. government's main college scholarship program by 56 percent within five years, and it would bar financial inducements to schools by student-loan companies.

To read the full text of the senate bill, go to:

<http://www.nasfaa.org/PDFs/2007/HEAamendments2007.pdf>

Meanwhile, the House Education and Labor Committee also approved legislation — co-drafted by committee chairman Rep. George Miller (D-CA), along with the committee’s senior Republican, Rep. Howard P. McKeon (R-CA) — that would reform the financial aid industry by:

- Imposing a ban on all gifts from lenders to campus officials, revenue-sharing agreements between lenders and colleges, and college administrators’ participation on lenders’ advisory boards,
- Requiring institutions to disclose all relationships with lenders,
- Allowing “preferred lender lists” on campuses with strict assurances that the list was created with the students’ best interests in mind, and
- Prohibiting staffing of campus financial aid offices by lenders or their employees.

To read the full text of the house bill, go to:

<http://insidehighered.com/index.php/content/download/146181/1885963/version/1/file/Sunshine%20Act%205.9.07.pdf>

- CFA LEADER ATTENDS RECEPTION AT PRESTIGIOUS MAYORS’ CONFERENCE

CFA Associate Vice President, Lecturers Elizabeth Hoffman represented CFA this weekend at a reception to honor Democratic mayors from across the country.

The event, hosted by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), welcomed the mayors to Los Angeles as a prelude to the 75th Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors.

OTHER NEWS

- CFA PRESIDENT HONORED

CFA President and CSU Los Angeles History Professor Lillian Taiz has been honored as the 2007 recipient of the American Association of University Professors Georgina M. Smith Award.

“This victory was possible in large measure because of the courage, vision, and perseverance of Lil Taiz,” wrote CFA interim General Manager Susan Meisenhelder and Associate Vice President, Lecturers Elizabeth Hoffman in their letter nominating Taiz for the award.

“Lil’s work during the past two years of our bargaining fight is just one piece of an extraordinary track record of leadership. She is deeply committed to the principles of academic freedom and to the role of the university in a democratic society. As an historian and labor leader, she understands all too well the forces undermining the university. And she knows that the best way for CSU faculty to fight back is through their union.”

Taiz was presented with the award June 9 during the AAUP’s annual meeting plenary luncheon by Professor Ann Higginbotham, chair of the AAUP Committee on Women in the Academic Profession.

To read the press release on the award, go to:

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/newsroom/pressreleases/GSmith.htm>

- HENRY JONES FOR CALPERS

CFA has endorsed Henry Jones as a candidate for the CalPERS board. Jones, a CSU grad and former CSULA professor, is running for the retirees’ seat on the CalPERS board.

All faculty members who are CalPERS recipients and are retired as of June 1, 2007 are eligible to vote in the election. Ballots will be mailed to each eligible member’s home address beginning August 20, 2007.

Jones brings a strong educational background to his candidacy, having worked in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 37 years, beginning as a union janitor and climbing all the way up the ladder to eventually become the district’s Chief Financial Officer.

To find out more about Jones and his campaign go to:

<http://hjonesforcalpers.com/>

- UCFW ANNOUNCES STRIKE VOTE RESULTS

Southern California grocery store employees represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UCFW) have voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike should their latest round of negotiations with Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons supermarkets fail.

It was announced Monday that 95% of the union’s membership voted to authorize the strike. The strike could affect more than 65,000 workers from Bakersfield to the Mexico border.

For the latest on this developing story, go to: <http://www.ufcw.org/>

- CFA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CFA currently has an opening for Director of Representation. This is a management level position with general responsibility for formulating and implementing CFA's Representation program. Direct experience in negotiations and grievance/arbitration handling, as well as supervision of these functions, is required.

The Director of Representation requires substantial "hands on" experience in the area of collective bargaining, especially public sector bargaining, and in grievance/arbitration handling and labor board representation. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience in building a representation program around organizational goals, and the ability to manage a program that facilitates internal organizing and chapter development. Negotiations, litigation and supervisory experience are required, as well as the abilities to work well with members and communicate with chapter leaders. The Director of Representation reports directly to the General Manager.

For more information on this and other openings, go to:

<http://calfac.org/employment.html>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4

CFA offices closed

July 10-11

CSU Board of Trustees - meet at Chancellor's office,
401 Golden Shore, Long Beach

August 17-18

CFA Board of Directors meets

August 20

Ballots mailed to retired faculty members for CalPERS board member election

September 3

CFA offices closed

September 28

Last day to mail ballots for CalPERS board member election

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If you receive these headlines as a forwarded message and wish to begin receiving them weekly directly from calfac-I go to <http://lists.calfac.net/listinfo.cgi/calfac-I-calfac.net> to sign up.

*See back issues of CFA Headlines, sent each Tuesday, at <http://www.calfac.org/headlines.html>
Update your contact info in the CFA member database at the "Help Desk" at <http://www.calfac.org>*

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