

## From the California Faculty Association

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

**January 8, 2008 - Weekly news digest from CFA**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

#### **THE CSU BUDGET**

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- Recap of CSU Budget request
- Quote of the week, it's all about education

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- New CFA staff

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### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Happy New Year to all of the faculty members, staff, students, alumni and administrators who make up the CSU community!

As 2008 begins, the CSU system again finds itself at a crossroads. As former President John Travis eloquently wrote to faculty last year, "Our responsibility as educators does not end with instruction, research and governance. It extends to defending the educational integrity of the institution and traditions of academia for the generation of students to come."

That statement is as true now as ever.

CFA Headlines will provide the latest information to help you advocate for the CSU throughout the coming year. You can always find the latest by going to: [www.calfac.org/headlines.html](http://www.calfac.org/headlines.html)

### **THE CSU BUDGET**

## **- THE BUDGET APPEARS TO BE THE CENTRAL BATTLEGROUND OVER EDUCATION**

In his State of the State speech delivered today, the governor did his best to lower expectations in what he had previously promised would be the “Year of Education.” While he did not mention the specific impact on the CSU budget, he did say that he would propose “cuts to spending across the board.”

However, CFA leaders say it is too soon to give up on higher education. According to Lillian Taiz, CFA President, “While the threat to the CSU is very real, we must remember that the governor's January budget is just the opening salvo. Final decisions have not been made. We know that higher education is part of the solution to a struggling economy. Every one of us is going to have get the message out to policy-makers and the public.”

On Thursday the governor will present his budget plan for 2008/09, which will include a proposal for state funding for the CSU. The CSU is in the most vulnerable part of the state budget, protected neither by propositions (as is K-14) nor by court-ordered funding (as are prisons).

During the previous budget crisis, the CSU was cut by a half billion dollars. Unfortunately, the state universities never recovered that lost funding; thus in inflation-adjusted dollars, our budget remains below the 2002 level.

As a result of these earlier budget shortfalls, the CSU turned away eligible students, cut classes, and increased class size - all of which resulted in longer times to graduation. Most importantly, these cuts threatened our ability to offer quality education.

The governor also has indicated he will declare a fiscal emergency for the current budget year, which began last July. Such a declaration starts a 45-day clock ticking during which the state legislature, under Prop. 58 rules, must achieve a balanced budget.

The 2007/08 budget is estimated to be about \$3.5 billion short. After 45 days, the legislature would not be allowed to take up any other legislation and the governor would gain the right to cut any line item he wishes from current year spending.

The governor will present his budget to the public on Thursday. A special edition of CFA Headlines will follow.

## **- RECAP OF THE CSU SYSTEM BUDGET REQUEST**

Late every year, the CSU Board of Trustees sends a budget request for the next academic year to the state Department of Finance for inclusion in the governor's

budget proposal presented each January.

Since 2004, the Trustees have limited this request to the terms of the “Compact” funding agreement adopted on a handshake between the CSU chancellor and the governor. CFA has repeatedly urged the Trustees to treat the Compact as minimum funding and to ask for more based on what is really needed to enable the faculty to deliver a quality education.

This year, the Trustees actually requested \$155 million above the Compact. We know that in a terrible budget year getting that money will be a tough fight. But, it is important to make sure policy-makers and the public know that the CSU needs to play its role in improving our economy and society.

See the details of the budget request at: <http://www.calfac.org/budget08-09.html>

## **- QUOTE OF THE WEEK, IT’S ALL ABOUT EDUCATION**

In a bad budget year, it is helpful to revisit what higher education is all about and the historic role teachers and professors play, particularly in the CSU with its kind of student demographics.

In his victory speech in Iowa last week, presidential candidate Barack Obama said, “I was raised by a single mom. We had neither wealth nor privilege. All odds—all odds—said I shouldn’t be standing here. But I am because of love and education and lots of hope.”

No matter what party or candidate any of us are supporting, this is the kind of sentiment that fuels the work to save the CSU from devastating budget cuts.

## **FEBRUARY 5 ELECTION**

### **- REGISTER TO VOTE**

With the Feb. 5 state primary election drawing near, those wishing to participate in this important election have just to weeks left to register to vote.

The deadline to register to vote is February 22, so if you are not registered to vote, please sign up today. Also, urge students and colleagues to vote.

You may get forms to register to vote at any post office, DMV or from your campus’s CFA chapter or Associated Students group. You may also fill out a registration form online at: [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm)

### **- OPPOSITION GROWS AGAINST PROP. 92**

Opposition continues to mount against Proposition 92 – which seeks to lock into California’s constitution a huge new spending mandate for community colleges – as eight newspapers have recently editorialized against the measure.

The newspapers opposing the measure include: the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, San Diego Union-Tribune, Orange County Register, Long Beach Press-Telegram, Torrance Daily Breeze, Riverside Press-Enterprise and Bakersfield California.

“Proposition 92 would worsens California’s budget deficit and threatens funding for the CSU and other critical state programs,” says John Travis, Chair of CFA’s Political Action and Legislation Committee.

“While the Community Colleges are important to all of us in higher education, Proposition 92 would further threaten California’s ability to address the state’s other pressing needs, like funding K-12 schools, state universities, health care and public safety,” said Travis.

To find out more about why CFA, its allies and newspapers across the state oppose Proposition 92, go to: <http://www.noprop92.org/>

## **- CFA SUPPORTS PROP. 93**

CFA supports Proposition 93, the Term Limits and Legislative Reform Act.

Rather than letting legislators serve up to 14 years in the State Capitol as is now the law, Proposition 93 would allow them to spend 12 years total service in any combination of either house.

“CFA understands that experience plays a key role in the development of expertise and effectiveness. That’s why we’re endorsing Proposition 93,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz, a professor of History at CSU Los Angeles.

“California’s current system of legislative term limits is broken – Proposition 93 will give us the opportunity to work with experienced legislators to ensure that they understand higher education and the critical role the CSU plays in our state.”

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **- HENRY JONES WINS ELECTION TO CALPERS BOARD**

Henry Jones—the CFA-endorsed candidate for the retirees’ seat on the 13-member CalPERS Board of Administrators—won a narrow victory in December’s runoff election by amassing 52% of the vote out of some 124,111 ballots cast.

Jones received 64,115 votes and Perry Kenny received 59,996 for a 4,119 vote margin of victory.

Jones is the retired Chief Financial Officer for the LA Unified School District, the nation's second largest. He is a CSU success story who worked his way through the CSU to advanced degrees, becoming a CSU professor before serving public education in finance.

Upon certification of the election results by the Secretary of State, the newly elected board member takes his seat in January. CSU San Marcos Business Professor George Diehr holds an elected seat on the board as well.

## **- NEW CFA STAFF**

CFA welcomes new staff members Michelle Cerecerez and Elizabeth Barba to our team.

Cerecerez began work Monday as CFA's new Southern California Organizing Director, while Barba will serve as Representation Specialist.

"We are happy to add Michelle and Elizabeth to our already talented staff," said CFA General Manager Susan Meisenhelder. "They bring with them diverse backgrounds in the labor movement and a wealth of experience that will make them valuable assets to our union."

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Jan 10**

Deadline for Governor to submit proposal for 2008/09 budget

### **Jan 21**

Martin Luther King Day, CFA offices closed

### **Jan 22**

Last day to register to vote for Feb. 5 election

Register today at: [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm)

### **Jan 22-23**

CSU Board of Trustees meeting, Long Beach

### **Jan 22**

Hearing in CFA open meeting lawsuit on hire of Barry Munitz  
Los Angeles Superior Court

### **March 13-15**

CFA Equity Conference: Building power through Diversity & Equity  
For more info go to: <http://www.calfac.org/affirm.html>

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