

From the California Faculty Association

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

· THE FIGHT FOR THE CSU BUDGET IS A FIGHT FOR THE STATE'S FUTURE

With the political battle over the 2008/09 state budget raging in Sacramento, advocates of the CSU – including CFA, the CSU administration, student groups and all campus staff unions – are organizing to remind lawmakers of the importance of the CSU to the vitality of the state.

“Higher education is part of the solution to this troubled economy,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz, a Professor of History at CSU Los Angeles. “By making more cuts to the CSU, lawmakers would be further undermining the economy and the revenue-making ability of the state.”

CFA, the CSU administration and other campus constituencies are preparing “all-campus” meetings throughout the CSU system to raise awareness about the budget and kick off advocacy for proper funding for the system.

Please watch for the All-Campus Meeting coming up on your campus and plan to attend.

CFA continues to stress that not a single dollar has yet been cut from the system.

“This situation is definitely bad for the CSU but I want to stress that these are only proposed cuts,” said Taiz. “The governor’s proposed cuts are not inevitable. Together with the entire CSU community, we intend to fight off these cuts and win the needed funding for the CSU.”

“We in the CSU have an obligation to fight for CSU funding. We must do our part to win a budget that allows the CSU to educate California’s working families. The CSU ensures hope and prosperity for our state,” said Taiz.

To find out the latest on the CSU budget, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/budget08-09.html>

- STUDIES ADD URGENCY TO PLEA FOR CSU FUNDING

Two studies released today highlight the urgent need to fund public higher education, particularly the California State University.

The first, out of the Silicon Valley, identified a rapid loss of traditional middle class jobs and the need for better education to preserve innovation. Emmett Carson, president of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which co-sponsored the 2008 Silicon Valley Index report, called for improvement in job training so potential employees are better prepared for jobs in today’s ever-changing economy.

Doug Henton, president of Mountain View-based Collaborative Economics, which conducted the index research, added that the valley needs to develop "ladders of opportunity" to help people move from low-wage to mid-wage jobs. He said, "We need to be thinking about social innovation, about how to build career ladders."

Meanwhile a report by the Brookings Institution and sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts warned, according to the New York Times, “that widening gaps in higher education between rich and poor, whites and minorities, could soon lead to a downturn in opportunities for the poorest families.

"The researchers found that Hispanic and black Americans were falling behind whites and Asians in earning college degrees, making it harder for them to enter the middle class or higher."

The California State University, which is slated for deep cuts in the governor’s proposed budget for next year, is a key part of the solution to California’s economic downturn and to ensuring access to a strong middle class in our state.

See the 2008 Silicon Valley Index report at <http://jointventure.org/>

See the Brookings Institute study at <http://economicmobility.com/>

See news coverage of these reports at <http://www.calfac.org/inthenews.html>

- CSU AVOIDS MID-YEAR CUTS

The CSU cleared a major funding hurdle over the weekend as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a package of emergency mid-year spending cuts totaling more than a billion dollars without making any reductions to the CSU budget.

“Obviously this is only the first step, but we view it as a positive sign that lawmakers understood the importance of funding the CSU,” said John Travis, Chair of CFA’s Political and Legislation Committee.

Travis continued, “However, the fact that other segments of education in our state were not spared should serve as a strong indication that we have work to do to ensure the governor realizes the importance of funding education going forward.”

While spared this month, the CSU suffered deep cuts in 2003 and 2004 totaling more than \$500 million. The system never recovered that lost funding and, in inflation adjusted dollars, the CSU budget is below the 2002 funding level.

- SEND IN CAMPUS RUMORS ABOUT THE BUDGET

The Governor's proposed cut to state funding for the CSU’s 2008/09 budget has generated a flurry of rumors on the campuses.

On some campuses, the rumors are mere speculation about what the proposed cuts might mean. On others, administrators are making pronouncements about specific cuts they plan to make. In some extreme cases, administrators have ordered cuts to instruction even though decisions about the budget have not been made.

CFA regards these reactions to be a panic response. CFA leaders say it is too soon to give up on our state university. Rather, the CSU needs leadership that will guide a push to win the needed funding.

“Giving up on this year’s budget process prematurely is a shortsighted and ill-advised approach to battling possible cuts,” said CFA Vice President Kim Gerón, a professor of political science at CSU East Bay.

CFA has set up a tip line to track budget rumors and pronouncements being made on the campuses.

Send your tips to budgetrumor@calfac.org

Please do not send questions about the budget to this address, only tips. If you have budget questions, please contact your campus CFA Office.

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT

- VIEW THE EQUITY PAY PROGRAM ONLINE

Information about the first year of the two-year equity program negotiated in the contract – for faculty experiencing salary inequities including salary inversion and low pay resulting from multiple years without pay raises – is now available to view online. The first year addresses faculty who were continuing Assistant Professors (and equivalent rank Librarians, Counselors, and Coaches) on July 1, 2007.

By going to <http://www.calfac.org/equitypay.html> you can find helpful documents about the equity program as well as information about eligibility and how awards are determined.

If after reviewing these documents you have further questions about equity pay, send an email to: equityprogram@calfac.org

Your question will be answered promptly.

OTHER NEWS

- NORTHRIDGE CHAPTER PRESIDENT IN THE NEWS

With the 2008 CFA Equity Conference just a few weeks away, CFA is seeking to promote the important issues of diversity and equity in the CSU system.

Northridge Chapter President and CFA Board member Theresa Montañó recently published an article in the Los Angeles Daily News about widening gender disparity in minority students entering into the CSU.

To view Montañó's article, go to:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/LADN_%20013108_theresa.pdf

The issues of gender and diversity along with many similar topics will be thoroughly discussed at the upcoming CFA Equity Conference, the theme of which will be “Building Power through Diversity and Equity.”

To find out more about the conference including registration information and a schedule of events, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/affirm.html>

- NEW DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR

CFA is proud to welcome new Deputy Political Director Erin Hicks to the union's staff.

Hicks is a graduate of CSU Sacramento and has worked on numerous legislative campaigns, most recently for Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez's office of member services.

"Erin's legislative and political experience makes her a great addition to the government relations team. We are happy to have her on board," said CFA Political Director Chris Garland.

Hicks will work out of CFA's Governmental Relations Office in Sacramento and can be reached at ehicks@calfac.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 29 & March 7

CFA District Lobby Days— contact your CFA chapter office to participate, talk with state legislators about the CSU budget

March 11-12

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting
401 Golden Shore, Long Beach

March 13-15

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

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day, CFA Offices closed

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