

From the California Faculty Association

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

· DOMINGUEZ HILLS KICKS OFF ALL-CAMPUS BUDGET MEETINGS WITH A BANG

An enthusiastic crowd of more than 350 faculty members, students, staff and administrators packed the ballroom of the CSU Dominguez Hills student union Monday to inaugurate a series of “Budget Cut Fight-Back meetings to take place on all 23 CSU campuses.

Monday’s event was emceed by Dominguez Hills CFA Chapter President David Bradfield, who laid out the meaning of these threatened cuts to the campus community while those in attendance gave a ‘power clap.’

Bradfield, who also serves as CFA Associate Vice President, was joined on the podium by Campus President Mildred García who spoke about the fiscal vulnerability of the campus and urged those in attendance to do everything in their power to make sure lawmakers support the CSU in the state budget process.

Referring to a past funding shortfall at the campus of \$2.8 million plus the governor's proposed cuts for this year, she said the cuts mean "\$6 million out of our campus budget – this we cannot stand for."

García said the shortfall already is causing the campus to stop tenure track faculty searches and freeze staff hiring.

"We've got to turn this around," she said.

Bradfield says the fight for CSU funding has brought unity to his campus. "It was great to see the campus come together in defense of the CSU budget," said Bradfield.

"Dr. Garcia has been great. The event would also not have been possible without the support of the Academic Senate, all the staff unions, and a group of wonderful and engaged students who turned out for the event including ASI President Ifeanyi Ebigbo and members of CSU Students for Quality Education."

The event was well attended by the media and coverage of the event – including newspaper articles and videos of broadcast reports – can be viewed at: <http://www.calfac.org/inthenews.html>

- ATTEND YOUR ALL-CAMPUS MEETING

CFA is working with campus leaders on all 23 campuses a series of all-campus meetings to bring together students, faculty, staff and administrators for All-Campus Budget Fight-back Meetings.

The goal: to stop the governor's proposed budget cuts of more than \$386 million to the CSU system. The organization: the new Alliance for the CSU to advocate for proper funding for the system.

We strongly urge you to attend!

The following meetings are scheduled. More will be added in the coming weeks:

March 10: CSU San Marcos, 1-2 pm, Arts 111 (Theater)

March 13: Fresno State, 11 am, Satellite Student Union

March 13: CSU San Bernardino, 10 am-Noon, Santos Manuel Student Union Events Center

March 13: CSU Monterey Bay, 12-2 pm, World Theater

March 17: San Francisco State, 12-1:30 pm, McKenna Theater

March 18: Sacramento State, 12-1 pm, University Theater

March 19: Cal. Maritime Academy, 11:50 am-12:30 pm, Rizza Auditorium

March 20: Sonoma State, 12-1:30 pm, Person Theater

March 20: San Diego, 12-1 pm, Scripps Cottage

Please contact your campus CFA Chapter for more information and watch for the All-Campus Meeting coming up on your campus and plan to attend.

Meetings took place yesterday at CSU Dominguez Hills and today at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

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

- NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHES CFA PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON BUDGET CUTS

On Saturday the New York Times published a letter to the editor from CFA President Lillian Taiz about the ramifications of possible budget cuts to the CSU to California's already troubled economy.

Taiz wrote, "In a state like California that depends on innovation to support its economy, cutting CSU is shooting us all in our collective foot. We hope that in the coming weeks, the governor will change his mind about slashing the higher education budget and crushing the hopes of the people of California."

To view the letter in full, go to:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/NYT_030308_lilLTE.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

- SAN BERNARDINO CFA CHAPTER PRESIDENT EDITORIALIZES AGAINST BUDGET CUTS

San Bernardino CFA Chapter President Tom Meisenhelder wrote an editorial condemning the governor's proposed budget cuts to higher education that appeared in Sunday's edition of the San Bernardino County Sun.

"Cutting the budget of the California State University is the wrong thing to do for the people of California," Meisenhelder wrote. "The CSU enables and empowers the hopes and dreams of many Californians."

"The CSU is an important contributor to economic productivity and growth in California. Cutting the CSU will surely damage the state's economy, contributing to future state revenue shortfalls and budget deficits rather than resolving them."

To view the full editorial, go to:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/SBSun_030208_TomM.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

- SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By following Taiz and Meisenhelder's lead and sending a letter to the editor you can help in the fight to preserve vital funding for the CSU.

Letters to the editor play an important role in CFA's efforts to advocate for higher education. By sending a letter you can help assignment editors know that you – the reader, viewer or listener – are interested in a particular topic and encourage the media outlet to continue to report on that topic.

To find out more about sending a letter to the editor, go to:

<http://www.calfac.org/letter.html>

EQUITY CONFERENCE

- CFA EQUITY CONFERENCE MARCH 14-15

The 2008 CFA Equity Conference is fast approaching and will take place March 14-15 in Los Angeles

The theme of this year's Equity Conference will be "Building Power through Diversity and Equity" and those attending will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety meetings and workshops about how to better promote diversity in the CSU.

To learn more about the equity conference, go to:

<http://www.calfac.org/affirm.html>

OTHER NEWS

- ATTEND CFA DISTRICT LOBBY DAY

The second of CFA's two district Lobby Days will take place this Friday, March 7.

Conversations during this year's visits will center on the state budget and the Governor's proposed cuts to the CSU.

"These legislative visits play a critical role in building our relationships with legislators and letting them know where we stand on the issues," said John Travis, Chair of CFA's Political Action and Legislation Committee.

To get involved or learn more about CFA's district Lobby Day, contact your campus Political Action and Legislation Chair.

To find your PA/Leg chair go to: http://www.calfac.org/pa_chairs.html

- AAUP NATIONAL ELECTION

Ballots for the AAUP national election will be mailed between February 25 and March 3, 2008. AAUP members will vote for four national officer positions and one position representing District I of the AAUP National Council.

Information on each candidate will accompany the ballots and is also available at the AAUP website: <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/officers/cand.htm>

Ballots must be returned and received on or before April 15, 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 14-15

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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*See back issues of CFA Headlines, sent each Tuesday, at <http://www.calfac.org/headlines.html>
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